■ SUNDAY COMICS

■ NEWS/A2

Cabral named DSWD secretary; Reyes takes over from Defensor at DENR

■ ACROSS/AI7

Ex-Sen. Ramon Revilla drives away farmers from disputed Cavite property

■ NEWS/A3

Patikul killers stayed around brazenly, villagers say

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, February 5, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 59 P18 website: www.inq7.net

RP still open to mining, Palace tells investors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SOUGHT TO ASsure investors that the Philippines was still open to new mining ventures and that their investments were safe in the wake of Palace efforts to placate the Catholic bishops who have launched a campaign to stop mining.

It clarified that the government's offer to

BP STILL A/A

TV rivalry, politics cast aside in wake of tragedy

By Norman Bordadora

VIC SOTTO, HOST OF GMA 7'S "EAT BULAGA" called for a one-minute prayer for the stampede victims. And the entire cast and crew fell silent. The longest-running TV hit show stood still for its fiercest rival, one that has been trying to knock off "Bulaga" from its No. 1 noontime slot—"Wowowee" in the "other network."

TV RIVALRY/A/A-9

ADMISSION FREE to a field of dreams but at what price? Still, the hopefuls started to line up on Monday for the Saturday edition of Wowowee's first anniversary extravaganza which promised there instant riches. MARY LOPEZ

74 DREAMS CRUSHED

'Ultra tragedy reveals life is hard, real state of economy'

UNSPEAKABLE GRIEF for a son who lost his mother who lies lifeless with the rest, mostly elderly women, who had lined up for days for a chance at a better life for their families. MARY LOPEZ

COMEDIAN Willie Revillame is reduced to tears. CHERYL ARGUELLES

COMING IN FROM THE COLD. Vice President Noli stands behind former colleagues Gabby Lopez and Chavit Singson-Concio. ZACHARY

Loud music drowned out cries for help

By Yok Contreras, Edson Tandoc and Luige del Puerto

THEY CAME IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS, SOME camping out for days, hoping fortune would favor the earliest to get in among them. All they wanted, each of them, was a stadium seat, a free raffle ticket, and a stroke of luck that could end a life of poverty.

MUSIC WAS BLARING FROM LOUDSPEAKERS as the huge crowd pushed at the steel gates of the Philsports Arena to take part in the anniversary celebration of "Wowowee."

From accounts, what happened was bizarrely simple: In the mad rush to gain entry to the arena—and thereby get a crack at the prizes up for grabs—people who had been waiting for days, pushed relentlessly until the gates gave way and the people in front were trampled to death.

"I was shouting, Help us, help us! The music was so loud. How could they hear us?" said Nenita Cabasan, 44, of 555 Village, Marikina City.

Cabasan said the loudspeakers kept on blaring away, so that the guards and other people in the crowd did not hear the cries of the injured, or just did not pay attention.

"I was lucky I survived," said Cabasan, who was among the many camped outside the arena since Wednesday. (See *first accounts* on Page A4.)

She said the crowd rushed in when the guards opened the gates a bit to distribute tickets. As a result, she said, those in front were crushed.

The massive surge left a human pileup "four bodies thick" at one of the gates facing Jasmin Street, according to accounts gathered by the Inquirer from Philsports security guards.

LOUD/A1-9

Entering the Inquirer building of dreams exploded into a mad, deadly rush.

Red Cross officials said 74 people who had come to watch the first anniversary presentation of the popular ABS-CBN noontime show "Wowowee" were crushed to death in an overly teeming stampede at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, a shocking spectacle many saw as a telling measure of the hard times.

About 580 others were injured, Red Cross officials said.

In a telegram to the Bishop of Pasig, the Vatican said: "The Pope asks Almighty God to grant solace to the injured and to those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones."

Some concerned groups expressed concern that the stampede may have been caused by extreme poverty and despair which they said were so prevalent among Filipinos that one of their main hopes for a better life was a TV show offering a quick windfall. It's not P50 to the dollar, they said, but 70 lives to the peso.

It was one of the deadliest, if not the deadliest, incident involving a mass gathering to occur in the country in years.

The victims were predominantly from the poorest parts of the metropolis and nearby provinces, generally jobless and bared by the show's promise of instant millions.

Some came from as far as the Visayas.

74 DREAMS/A1-9

Wowowee: Entertainment, hope for the poor

By Nini Valera

A P2.5-MILLION HOUSE AND LOT package, P1 million in cash and a passenger jeep were to be the top prizes in what would have been the first anniversary celebration yesterday of "Wowowee."

Conceived as a no-brainer noontime game show, "Wowowee" is famous for giving away as much as P2 million in cash daily. It is hosted by Willie Revillame and is aired over ABS-CBN.

The house and lot package was to be the grand prize in the "Pera o Bayong" segment, where 300 players would have taken part.

A "bonus partner" was to win the same prizes as the studio contestant winner through an electronic raffle system involving text messages sent to a designated cell phone number.

A minor raffle would have also given away P50,000 in cash each to a number of people in the audience.

A traditional part of the show was for overseas-based Filipinos in the audience to greet their families abroad.

Those hallbryar would usually donate dollar bills, collected in a basket passed around during the show, to complete the

WOWOWEE/A10

Disaster waiting to happen: Celebrities to die for

By Michael L. Tan

LIKE SO MANY OTHER CELEBRITIES, Willie Revillame of "Wowowee" was being pushed through arenas, sometimes sweltering, with runaway promotions on television to billboards and mass events with free tickets—and all kinds of spin-off businesses such as celebrity magazines, cell phone ring tones and picture downloads.

Idols are all too easy to create. As with ancient religions, today's entertainment industry uses myths, legends, lots of graven images, and products claiming to carry the gods' essence.

Ancient idols were made to promise: "Worship me and I will grant your wishes." Today's idols, endorsing endless products, have a different pitch: "Buy my product, come see me, touch me, and you too can be me."

COMMENTARY

For years now, we've worried about terrorist attacks. Yesterday's disaster had no real bomb, yet the death toll was worse than some of the suicide bomb attacks in other countries.

I couldn't help thinking that the dead were human sacrifices on the altar of commercialism and latter-day idols.

How long will we allow the entertainment industry to use celebrities, with their manufactured aura, to dictate to us what to buy, how to live—and how to die?

Doubtless, heads will roll as authorities ferret out people to blame.

Perhaps no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo will announce that the

DISASTER/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

CEBU CITY: Rain expected today. Sunny and hazy all tomorrow with cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers with localized thunderstorms. Winds will be southeasterly at 10 to 15 kph. Temperature will be cool to warm, ranging from 24 degrees Celsius to 30 degrees Celsius.

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Surprise: Reyes goes to DENR

PALACE VISITOR

President Macapagal-Arroyo shows Indian President Abdul Kalam around during yesterday's call on Malacañang. The Indian president is on a four-day state visit during which she was expected to step up cooperation in defense, tourism, agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

GMA also names Cabral to DSWD

By Dil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG PULLED a major surprise in its latest batch of Cabinet appointees, transferring Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, a longtime ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Reyes' reluctance to give up the Department of Interior and Local Government portfolio was said to be the reason for the delay in the Cabinet reshuffle.

A former Armed Forces chief of staff and bedrock of support for deposed President Estrada in 2000 paved the way for Ms Arroyo's accession, Reyes was initially offered the trade-and-industry post of ambassador to the United States but turned it down reportedly because it did not fit in with his plan to run for senator in 2007.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who announced the new appointments yesterday, confirmed Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's move to the Palace as the President's chief of staff.

New appointees

The other new appointees are Esperanza Cabral as social welfare secretary and Edgardo Buenaventura as chair of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Development Council (SCTC), the agency that oversees the key areas of, and serves as an investment vehicle for, the economic zones created out of the former United States military bases in Central Luzon.

Noli De Castro, who is also the presidential spokesman, said Reyes would not be long before Malacañang puts Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, the president of Mr Arroyo's Kampi party, back in the pivotal post that he held during the Estrada administration.

REYES

The President is also reportedly interested in recruiting another retired general, Reps Rolando Andaya, to the Cabinet to replace Budget Secretary Romulo Neri who wants to return to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neri was moved from the Socioons the Budget department during the last major Cabinet reshuffle. He served months ago, following the mass resignation of Cabinet secretaries, the so-called Hyatt 10, who called on the President to step down over the election cheating and wiretap scandals.

Others leaving the URSB has been left in the care of an officer-in-charge while Defensor acted as the Palace's main troubleshooter.

'A perfect fit'

Defensor said another batch of appointments would be announced soon to fill up the vacant seats in the Cabinet.

He described the new appointees as "a perfect fit for an administration (now in) its fifth year."

He said Neyes' long experience in law enforcement would give the DENR a tougher mind-set, something that he said was needed in the department's campaign against illegal logging and mining encroachers.

Defensor said his new post was a reprise of his role as the President's campaign manager in the 2004 elections.

"I was asked to strengthen the Malacañang group," he said.

Cabral, the former director of the Philippine Heart Center, is one of the country's leading cardiologists and is the host of a medical advice show on state-owned RPN 9 television.

Bunye said Cabral, a native of Pampanga, has pursued his classmate in the President into several key government positions. He was the National Housing Authority general manager before being appointed to head Malacañang's Office of Special Affairs.

Bunye said SCTC would be supervising all beer corporation bodies created by Congress in 1992 through RA 7227.

CABRAL

'Greater focus, efforts'

"The President has indeed entered level in synergizing the development and growth of Subic and Clark as major economic engines in the country. She wants greater focus and efforts at these," he said.

Ms Arroyo included the development of Subic in Bataan and Clark in Pampanga and Tarlac—which until 1991 hosted the largest military bases of the United States in the Asia-Pacific—in her 10-point agenda in 2004.

The government has converted the area's bases into investment parks, tapping the airports and seaport developed by the Americans for economic activities.

Bunye said Defensor will take over the post vacated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's choice of appointees at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Bunye said the President wanted to turn Subic and Clark into the best logistics hub in Southeast Asia.

Antonio Ng, CDC president and chief executive officer, said Paneyeran's appointment was "highly positive for Central Luzon." With a report from Dimitri Olorjan, PIA Central Luzon Desk

ATTENTION ALL NURSES, PT'S, DIPLOMATS AND HOLDERS OF WORKING VISAS GOING TO THE U.S.

LET US TAKE CARE OF YOUR VEHICLES BEFORE YOU GET THERE

International AutoSource
The Right Move Before You Move to the United States.

OWNING A CAR IN THE U.S. IS NOT A LUXURY BUT A NECESSITY

AutoSource is a U.S. based company that provides the opportunity to buy, finance or lease a brand new vehicle in the U.S. while you are still in the Philippines.

HASSLE-FREE COST SAVING AUTO PURCHASE AND/OR LEASING PROGRAM FOR YOUR MOVE TO AMERICA

The International Autosource Advantage...
- EXPERIENCE. AutoSource company was established over 10 years ago, and delivers over 20,000 vehicles a year to international customers.
- SERVICE. AutoSource factory-authorized consultants will answer any questions you have about driving in the U.S.A. and assist you every step of the way.
- CONVENIENCE. AutoSource offers only brand new vehicles & financing approval even without a past credit history in the U.S.
- SAVINGS. AutoSource will save you money on the purchase, lease and insurance of your car.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL or VISIT AutoSource Exclusive Distributor in the Phils.:
HRPC Training and Accreditation Assistance Center Inc.
MANILA OFFICE: 2/F Reliance House, 266 EDSA cor. Rochester St. Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1500
Tel. No.: 724-8001 to 06 • Fax No.: 725-2504
email: edsusa@hrpc.com.ph
CEBU OFFICE: Unit 210 2/F Raintree Mall (Ramos Entrance), 035 Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 254-9973 / (032) 232-1195 ext. 102/215
Fax No.: (032) 254-9982 • e-mail: smo@hrpc.com.ph
Pls. visit our website: www.hrpc.com.ph
Hurry!!! call now at 725-8001 to avail of the limited staggered down payment offer.

Open the lid on BRIGHT IDEAS!

Creativity & Innovation for Cutting Edge Competitiveness
Seminar-Workshops
Applying Creative Thinking To Workplace Challenges

Skilled and delivered by:
OPTIMUS
Creating Light Bulb Moments in Organizations

2006 Schedule:
March 7 - 8, May 4 - 5,
July 6 - 7, Sept. 7 - 8
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Emerald Bldg., Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Reserve your slot early to avail of 10% Early Bird Discount
To register, call tel. no. (632) 937-0376, 938-8678, 938-2082
Or e-mail optima@pldrvibe.net

PATIKUL, SULU MASSACRE

Killers stayed around brazenly, villagers say

PATIKUL, SULU—ABU SAYYAF gunmen believed responsible for the massacre of six people here early morning Friday roamed around brazenly and remained near a military detachment before and after the shooting, according to residents.

Jennifer Fernandis, 32, made this statement yesterday, contradicting earlier claims by authorities that quick military response drove the bloody attack.

Fernandis, whose father Aurelio, 50, was among those killed, said the suspects went to the massacre site through a road near a Marine detachment, which is about 200 meters away from the site.

She described the neighborhood in Barangay Liang, where the shooting occurred, as a close-knit community whose members lived in relative in the middle of military checkpoints and a major Marine headquarters.

"One of them was in military uniform. There were about four others who waited standing at the area beside the corner of our house. I wasn't able to see their faces because it was dark," Fernandis said.

The one in military uniform, she said, asked his father if there were Christians in the village. "After they asked that question, they left," Jennifer said.

She said the shooting started about 20 minutes later and that no police or soldiers arrived to help.

Armando Tesora Jr., a former soldier who lives in the neighborhood, said dogs were native closely before the massacre. "It was a sign that strangers were in the vicinity," he said.

He added that when he heard bursts of gunfire he jumped into small hole in his door. "I saw many armed men, more than 20. Some were in short pants, others were in denim pants. They kept on shooting."

Tesora said the shooting lasted for about seven minutes.

Tesora said he overheard one of the suspects speaking in Tausug. "Let's leave. They've all dead," he recalled the suspect as saying.

Backing up Fernandis's claim, Tesora said the armed men fled toward sitio Bualak, about 100 meters away from a Marine detachment.

Col. Ausrahn Jakiban, commander of the 3rd Marine brigade, admitted to the Inquirer that Abubars killed to respond during the actual attack because they were ordered to take a defensive position.

"We cannot immediately get out of the camp, as standard procedure requires that our detachment be alerted first before we can deploy our troops. With that release of fire, we had to be more cautious," he said.

He said the 4th Brigad wanted to humiliate the Marines by attacking the village which are practically part of the military camp.

"They planned that desperate attack because of our recent successful operations against them. The Abu Sayyaf Group has suffered major setbacks in recent months. That's why they are resorting these, including the Marines, trying to humiliate us," he said.

Jakiban said the first soldiers arrived in the area about 15 minutes later and that some Marines arrived after the bandits has failed to catch up with them.

Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin said he was informed by residents that three persons riding on motorcycles cleared the massacre site of empty shells.

"I was informed they were Marines. My main explanation why they cleared the place when that should have been the job of the police," Amin said.

Jakiban said he doubted the truth of the report because Marines were told not to touch anything, "Because it's not our job, it's a police matter," he said.

Anxious about their security in spite of the curfew, some residents of Barangay Liang have decided to temporarily live in other areas.

Tesora said he told his wife to take the three children and stay with her parents.

Relatives buried yesterday massacre victims Seema Daonga and her eight-month old daughter Melinda in Dubhol publication according to Muslim rites. Seema had converted a Muslim even though her husband was a Christian.

The bodies of victims Fernandis, Pedro Campong and Sitt daughter Emma were brought to camp by Jolo, while the remains of Leonardo Barrego was brought to Barangay San Raymundo. *Zofie L. Mapalo, PDI Mindanao bureau*

No luxury cars for new CA chief

By Armand Dean N. Nocum

IS JUDICIAL DIGNITY ENHANCED BY THE kind of car a justice or a judge drives around in?

Newly appointed Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben T. Reyes believes it does not, so he has notified for a five-year-old van that is associated more with executive. Instead of spending an allowance of P2.5 million on a luxury car and a van that are official of his station is supposedly entitled to.

Instead of spending the P2.5 million on a Toyota Camry and a Innova van, Reyes said he decided to put the money into a kitty of more than P2M million reached to provide CA employees with "fringe benefits."

Thus, while his colleagues move around in flashy cars, the 67-year-old Reyes drives a plain looking van that has seen better days. He asked the Inclusion in a recent interview not to disclose the vehicle's make for security reasons.

"Whatever group has the presiding justice has, it's still not be supported by the other justices and personnel, it will be difficult to contend," Reyes said, explaining his sacrifice. "It's difficult to push through a program without the support of the rank and file."

He said that even Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban had asked him to trade in his car for a more expensive model, one truly in keeping with the position he was elevated to last December.

'Dignity of the office'

"It's not for you, but for the dignity of the office," Reyes recalled Panganiban telling him recently.

Although he has not closed the option of getting a more appropriate car in the future, he now insists said the standard the CA rank and file were more important.

"It's common knowledge that the salary of justices is higher than the personnel, so our try to narrow the gap between the benefits enjoyed by the justices and the personnel," he said.

According to him, very few people know that the ordinary employees and court clerks are the most hardworking persons in government.

In the CA, he said, justices alone end with up to 20 resolutions each day – some running more than 100 pages – that have to be photocopied and need to several parties (sealed in a one another).

On top of this, they also handle hundreds of motions and comments filed by lawyers.

"They are on raising heroes. Most of them work on Saturdays – without pay – because weekdays are simply not enough to complete the workload. They only rest when going to the washroom," he added.

Fixed exchange rate for OFW $ proposed

By Michelle V. Ramos

WHILE MALACAÑANG IS ECSTATIC OVER THE strong gains of the peso against the US dollar, millions of Filipinos who depend on the dollar remittances of their relatives working abroad are not amused.

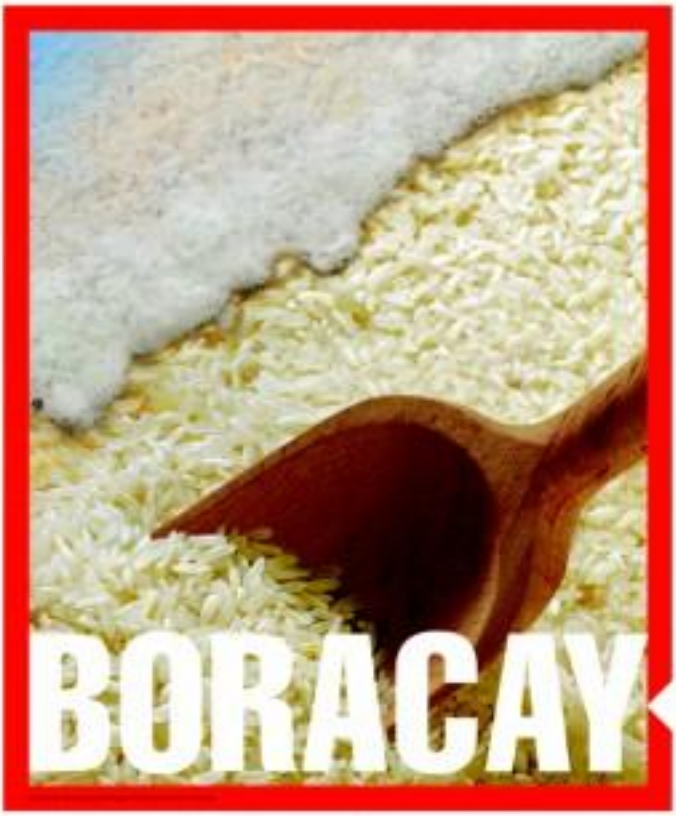
Overseas Filipino workers and their families are complaining that the recent strengthening of the peso has drastically reduced the peso value of the dollar remittances.

To address their concerns, the government is being urged to peg the exchange rate at P56.41 exclusively for remittances of OFWs or the so-called modern-day heroes.

Former Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Roy Señeres said OFWs and their families have been placed in a disadvantage by the peso's appreciation.

"The peso is appreciating to the disadvantage of the OFWs, about half of whom are lowly paid, like housemaids in the Middle East," Señeres said in an interview with the Inquirer.

Señeres, now founding chair of the OFW Family Club, said those serving as household helpers in other countries usually earn a monthly pay of only $150.



Want a free trip? With a Mabuhay Miles Visa, you can earn Miles on everything you buy – including visa.

Mabuhay MILES

130

HSBC
The world's local bank

Mostly elderly women crushed to death

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Norman Bordadora, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Luige R. del Puerto and Dona Pazzibugan

THE CASUALTIES WERE MOSTLY women, and aged 50 and above. "They are the vulnerable ones," said a Philippine Red Cross worker at the site.

"She begged me to help her. But I couldn't do anything because people were stepping on me. I saw people stepping on her, too," Alberto Barrera, 39, recounted in Filipino how he saw his mother trampled to death.

Fifty-seven year old Amanda Barrera was among scores of people who were crushed to death yesterday in a television game show stampede in Philippine Arena (formerly Ulingan) in Bocaue, Bulacan.

"Hindi ko alam na merong ganito dun (I didn't know there was such a thing)," Barrera said in Filipino. "If I had known, I would not have accompanied my mother here," Barrera said in tears, as he watched over his mother's lifeless body.

Earlier, the two had shared a breakfast of hot noodles and bread—their last together—without an inkling of the tragedy that was to come.

Like thousands of hopeful others, the Barreras of Meisic, Binay had camped outside the stadium since Wednesday, hoping to attend the free broadcast of "Wowowee," a popular game show on ABS-CBN.

"It was a first come, first served basis. We wanted to enter the gates first so we could have that ticket," Barrera said, adding that they had brought food and clothes to last them until the show proper.

His mother was looking forward to meeting the show's host Willie Revillame, in person, he said.

Take home some cash

"She really wanted to play the 'Bira o Bayong,' hoping to take home some cash," Barrera said of the big-prize gambling.

Barrera had lost his mother's grip when the crowd started to squeeze through the gates small opening. They were still a few feet away from the entrance when the crowd pushed them to the ground.

"If the guards had opened the gates, none of this would have happened," he said.

His mother, who swept the streets of Binay City for a living, had earlier seen the show's commercial on television, prompting Conde of cash and gift prizes.

"She said we should go and try our luck. We might be able to take home something," said Herwin, who drives a cabocal to help his mother.

Cell phone unattended

Mylene Bulacan 15, and his mother Rosalina, 42, from Dagupan, Cabanatuan who went to the stadium with hopes of a better life.

"Baka sakali dito kami matulungan ng pera, (We had hoped to win some money)" Bulacan told The Inquirer.

His mother, who was suffering from high blood pressure, also died in the stampede.

He was holding his mother's hand when they were trampled.

"Ang hilig niya sa sine kaya dito sya humanga sa Iniyo. Nandoon ka lang daw ang kanyang niyo. Ilan sabed na nor to let go. She told me to hold her hand." he said.

He was still holding his mother's hand when she died, he said.

Dead sister

Bernardo Espinosa Marasigan waited in despair as she searched for her missing relatives.

"Help us, help us. I think my sister is dead," Marasigan cried.

"We were hoping to get a chance to win money, we never thought this would turn out to be a nightmare," she said.

Around her, relatives of some of the dead sobbed uncontrollably or were in hysterics.

As bodies were brought out of the stadium they were placed on a false canvas sheet outside and covered with plastic bags or newspapers. Some had their relatives' license or other ID cards placed on their chests for quick identification before being taken to nearby hospitals.

Piles of dismembered clothing, bags and shoes littered the scene.

Big brother

Marissa Gadiano, 31, still believe he couldn't do anything because people were stepping on me. I saw people stepping on her, too," Alberto Barrera, 39, recounted in Filipino how he saw his mother trampled to death.

Fifty-seven year old Amanda Barrera was among scores of people who were crushed to death yesterday in a television game show stampede in Philippine Arena (formerly Ulingan) in Bocaue, Bulacan.

"Hindi ko alam na merong ganito dun (I didn't know there was such a thing)," Barrera said in Filipino. "If I had known, I would not have accompanied my mother here," Barrera said in tears, as he watched over his mother's lifeless body.

Earlier, the two had shared a breakfast of hot noodles and bread—their last together—without an inkling of the tragedy that was to come.

Like thousands of hopeful others, the Barreras of Meisic, Binay had camped outside the stadium since Wednesday, hoping to attend the free broadcast of "Wowowee," a popular game show on ABS-CBN.

"It was a first come, first served basis. We wanted to enter the gates first so we could have that ticket," Barrera said, adding that they had brought food and clothes to last them until the show proper.

His mother was looking forward to meeting the show's host Willie Revillame, in person, he said.

THE DEADLY RUSH TO FORTUNE ends up for this man grieving for his wife. EPA/EFE/EDDIE

FIREFIGHTERS carry another dead body from the Ulira premises. ARCY ACOB

Take home some cash

"She really wanted to play the 'Bira o Bayong,' hoping to take home some cash," Barrera said of the big-prize gambling.

Barrera had lost his mother's grip when the crowd started to squeeze through the gates small opening. They were still a few feet away from the entrance when the crowd pushed them to the ground.

"If the guards had opened the gates, none of this would have happened," he said.

His mother, who swept the streets of Binay City for a living, had earlier seen the show's commercial on television, promising Conde of cash and gift prizes.

"She said we should go and try our luck. We might be able to take home something," said Herwin, who drives a cabocal to help his mother.

Cell phone unattended

Mylene Bulacan 15, and his mother Rosalina, 42, from Dagupan, Cabanatuan who went to the stadium with hopes of a better life.

"Baka sakali dito kami matulungan ng pera, (We had hoped to win some money)" Bulacan told The Inquirer.

His mother, who was suffering from high blood pressure, also died in the stampede.

He was holding his mother's hand when they were trampled.

"Ang hilig niya sa sine kaya dito sya humanga sa Iniyo. Nandoon ka lang daw ang kanyang niyo. Ilan sabed na nor to let go. She told me to hold her hand." he said.

He was still holding his mother's hand when she died, he said.

Dead sister

Bernardo Espinosa Marasigan waited in despair as she searched for her missing relatives.

"Help us, help us. I think my sister is dead," Marasigan cried.

"We were hoping to get a chance to win money, we never thought this would turn out to be a nightmare," she said.

Around her, relatives of some of the dead sobbed uncontrollably or were in hysterics.

As bodies were brought out of the stadium they were placed on a false canvas sheet outside and covered with plastic bags or newspapers. Some had their relatives' license or other ID cards placed on their chests for quick identification before being taken to nearby hospitals.

Piles of dismembered clothing, bags and shoes littered the scene.

Big brother

Marissa Gadiano, 31, still believe she was saved her 7-year-old from being trampled.

He scooped up my son and passed him to others, who then carried him away from the crowd," Gadiano told the Inquirer.

His son, Mark Joseph, lost his slippers and sustained bruises. But he is safe, unlike scores of others—including a 4-year-old girl—who perished in the stampede.

The toll was tall, for and was counting a shocking sixty. Gadiano said. She found her son, drenched in sweat, after the stampede.

The same man also helped the children of Elena Ginabang, 46.

"He was very kind. Before the stampede, he even bought the cool water for my children," Ginabang said.

She said the man also held the hands of her daughter and son when the crowd went wild.

The man had lined up with them to get Happy Ander Street in Brgy City the other night to attend the auditorium scheduled yesterday noon, Ginabang said.

Gadiano said they had an idea persons, mostly elderly women, were dying in front of the queue when the second gate with close 5:45 a.m.

"They were lining people whom we thought had just collapsed. But are did not take them seriously because some people pretended to faint just to get ahead of the line," Gadiano added.

Broken home, broken dreams

Nelibeth Ginabig, 34, had waited out at the stadium for 24 hours, reminded by the thought that he would be among the first 1000 people allowed to enter once the stadium gates were opened.

Now he considers himself even luckier to be alive, in spite of a broken bone.

"I have two shock. It was heartbk," Ginabig narrated in Filipino. "The crowd was just too big."

Ginabig said his feet and legs were caught under the gold fence that the SMKN built just on Friday to control commuters and vehicles.

"My body was numb from the waist down," he narrated. "I asked people to go easy but nobody heard me."

The security guards were not much help either.

"They tried to help but I suppose they also started getting excited by the sheer number of the people vying to get in," Ginabig said.

"I lay there (pinned to the ground) for almost an hour. I asked, 'Lord, why did this happen to me?'" he said.

Our child is dead

"How will I tell my husband that our child is dead? How? He knows I would be at Philsports, but this..." cried Myrna Bank, 43, her right hand resting on the chest of her dead child.

Bank, a housewife from Batasan, Quezon City, and her little girl were sitting on the pavement near the gate when people rushed in and collapsed on them.

Someone—a man—took the child away (standing on every bit to safety, but the child either fell or was back in her mother.

"Mommy, let us pray to God to save us," Bank quoted her child as saying while they were pressed down. Her child died.

"Ang sakin ko lang sa mga ka ang hindi na pagpunta sa dito, kasi di na sana ako pumunta (If I had known my child would be taken away from me, I never would have come)," she said.

Guards' fault

Governor Mendoza Grandeza, 72, of Antipolo City lives a comfortable enough life from the allowances her children who live abroad send her.

But she went to Philsports anyway, with 8 more of her children and grandchildren in tow. "I'm ill wishing to get our million pesos from that game," she said.

"The sound was really so loud. I was shouting, people are dying here. But they didn't stop," she said. The casualties started around 6 a.m., when people started to get crushed. Grantham said nobody not even the guards did anything for the ones here on us. By the time the ambulances arrived, it was already too late.

"I was shouting, 'Stop, there are dead people here.' But no one paid attention to the dead. The dead were stepped on. The others pushed on, and the gate was built open. It's the (lack of the) guard, that is the biggest no fathom God," Grantham said.

Aerobics classmates

What was supposed to be a fun trip for a group of friends from Sto.Niño, Quezon City turned into tragedy. Nine elderly ladies who are classmates in aerobics were on Ulira early yesterday. Two of them were killed in the stampede, Lolita Villanueva and Herdela Bolano. Both are in their early 50s.

Lerelita Siebana, one of the surviving friends, blamed the guards for not opening the gates in time.

A total of 64 bodies were yesterday brought to Medical City, while 112 others were treated for various injuries.

The bodies, which were wrapped in white blankets, were laid out on the floor near the entrance to the morgue.

No relief

Salvador Garcia, 74, shook as he looked among the shrouded bodies for his uncle Virginio, 87.

"Hindi ko alam na may ganito pala na eventa anything since they arrived at Philsports on Friday at 4 p.m. The elderly couple came here hoping there to become a fan, Gloria.

"It was worse than being prisoners there. We couldn't see, we couldn't relieve ourselves. We stayed in the line. We were crushed," he said. With Nancy Carvajal and AFP

Disaster waiting to happen: Celebrities to die for

From page A1

problem was finally erased control, maybe even lapses in the management of the Ulira audience.

But this was a disaster waiting to happen. It could have been another celebrity event when the mad mob was not for tickets but for the celebrity. We forget that Filipinos are crazy for idols in the past, of fans doing to rock concerts as they pushed and shoved to get a better view of their idols. And we've failed to heed those warning signs.

Certainly, Americans owe reminders to be strewn throughout the world. But as far as I know, never has there been an incident like yesterday's tragedy.

It gives one meaning to the way we sometimes describe the feelings fans have for celebrities worship for.

Modern idolatry

Sociologists point out that Americans are much more celebrity-crazed than many others in communities, and that maybe this is because they do not have royalty.

I have Thai friends who suggest that maybe we Filipinos also need royalty, but then I've seen Thais go into ecstasies because they catch their celebrities, despite their having a king and queen, and princes and princesses.

So, it's not royalty we crave. We have simply developed a more extreme form of modern idolatry, for reasons that are too great or to discern.

Chinese, remember, is only a bit more than a century old, but it is a powerful medium. Movie stars project our collective angst, aspirations, triumphs—and they do that to our giant celluloid screen, not only larger than life.

With television, our exposure to these new gods became a daily morning, for hours on end.

Hunger for heroes

It's not surprising that the United States elected an actor as President as early as 1980, and that we followed suit in 1998, only in those him out of Hollywood in 2001.

We would have moved on in 2004 to still another actor, who, if the allegations of pill fraud are true, probably did win the presidential election.

Widely easy to understand the phenomenon of Ronald Reagan, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Fernando Poe Jr. They were all action stars, prepared in the movies as manly buckling defenders of justice.

The fact that we wanted another actor as President shortly after departing one tells us how badly we need heroes.

We sense that in the recent outbursts of national jubilation over boxer Manny Pacquiao and Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman.

What is so disturbing is that in many of our celebrities are of such dubious merit. But then talent is inconsequential—celebrities are celebrities because they're famous.

Desperate times

And if our standards for entertainment were in favor plunged to such low depths, it's because we live in desperate times.

I sometimes suspect we laugh so easily because there's so little left in life to be happy, or that anything, anyone, can become entertaining.

Look, too, at who were out there at the Ulira yesterday. They were mostly poor, mostly jobless.

If you aren't their clients, keep them happy with lots of free rice, or to entertain and consolation.

Never mind the long queue. That's part, too, of the festivities, along with the vendors selling assorted.

And yes, there will always be jokers and jesters, like the one who set off the brush scare.

I've been dodging the broadcasting networks asking for interviews because I prefer that they answer the questions they would have spread around.

Why such reactions to our celebrity mass?

Malacañang warned vs fertilizer scam cover-up

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATORS YESTERDAY WARNED MALA-cañang against preventing officials linked to the controversial P728 million fertilizer fund scam from testifying before a Senate inquiry, saying such an act would be tantamount to obstruction of justice.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the Palace should revoke Executive Order 464 which bars officials of the executive branch from appearing before the Senate investigations.

"In the light of the revelations of Mayor and massive corruption in the fertilizer program, we are calling on Malacañang to either revoke or suspend the implementation of Executive Order 464 so that those public officials can explain their participation in the fertilizer fund scam," Drilon and Magsaysay said in a joint statement.

The two senators noted that former Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary and now Presidential Assistant for Job Generation Arthur Yap, former DA Assistant Secretary and now Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Vice President Bienvenido Laguesma and former DA Undersecretary Belinda Gonzales have invoked EO 464 as their reasons for refusing to testify before the Senate inquiry.

Refuge under EO 464

"By allowing these officials refuge under EO 464, Malacañang cannot escape the public perception that it is actively involved in a fertilizer cover-up attempt," they said.

These officials, Drilon and Magsaysay added, were "directly involved" in the administration of the fertilizer fund which the opposition claimed was directed to ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 2004 elections.

Former DA Undersecretary Jocelyn "Sec. Joc" Bolante, a close associate of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was the alleged chief architect of the fertilizer fund program. Bolante had mysteriously snubbed the Senate hearings.

Drilon and Magsaysay asked President Arroyo to give the Senate committee "full and unlimited access" to all DA and the Department of Budget and Management records on the fertilizer project.

The Commission on Audit (COA) had confirmed that the fertilizer fund in the Gloriamay Masipagtaong Isot (GMA) program was overpriced by at least P1.27 million.

COA records showed that more than 100 House of Representatives members, 31 governors and 26 town mayors received between P3 million and P10 million each in fertilizer funds from the DA shortly before the May 2004 elections.

Come clean

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday that congressmen linked to the fund scam should come clean instead of resorting to stupid tactics to "hide their sin" in the scam.

Pimentel dared the public officials to disprove the testimony by witness Jun Bautista Jr. that they received commissions of not less than 30 percent and that the purchased fertilizer supplies were grossly overpriced.

Bautista said he served as a "binder" between the supplier of the liquid fertilizer, Nesham Philippines, Inc. and the congressmen and local officials.

On Friday, Drilon challenged the Office of the Ombudsman to initiate its own investigation and file graft charges against DA and local government officials involved in the fertilizer scam.

Occupancy of hotels up 5% in 2005

By Jovanie Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) today said that the overall average occupancy rate of hotels in Metro Manila last year rose to 71.81 percent, an increase of 5.09 percent from the previous level in 2004.

Assistant secretary for planning and tourism promotion Eduardo Jacque Jr. attributed the increase to the holding of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games and more seminars and conventions in the country, as well as the rise in the number of walk-in visitors and independent travelers.

For January-November 2005, there were less hotels but more rooms and more guests opting to stay shorter than in the same period in 2004, Jacque said in his report to DOT Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

The overall average length of stay in both accredited and non-accredited hotels in the metropolis was 2.39 nights compared to 2.72 nights in 2004. The average of stay for the accredited only was posted at 2.33 nights while the non-accredited was 2.45.

OUR AD AGENCY WANTED THIS IN FULL COLOR,

BUT WE WANTED EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE.

It's not because we're a conventional company that doesn't have the tiniest sense of fun. It's just that this ad talks about our Satisfaction Guaranteed Program which is so revolutionary, we can't afford readers like you getting the wrong idea. We want it to be as transparent as possible, what you see is what you get.

One of the programs is our Network Quality Guarantee in Metro Manila (the provinces run starts March 1). Let's say, we stated on the service level agreement –that's contract in layman's terms– between Bayan Tel and your company, that your data network will be up and running 99.5% of the time. It will be up and running 99.5% of the time. Nothing less.

We can vouch for that because our network across the country is consistent and quite predictable, not really big on surprises. And if by chance, your data network experiences breakdown, we would restore it within the agreed time. If we don't, we'll automatically waive one (1) full day of your Monthly Service Fee for every 4-hour delay.

GUARANTEED NETWORK PERFORMANCE OR GET SERVICES FOR FREE

Best of all, this guarantee rests upon a per circuit or unbundled basis. Meaning, if we fail to restore even one of your many circuits on time, you can avail of rebates or credits on a per circuit basis. Learn more about this guarantee of ours by calling (02) 449-9999 or 171 from any BayanTel phone nationwide.

For companies like yours which depend on their systems to be able to fully operate, the slightest glitch can mean big monetary loss; we can't afford to be risk takers now, can we?

But the bottom line here isn't about being late and making amends. The fact that we're offering a guarantee whose very foundation lies on being on time shows that we do understand that a few minutes of downtime can make any IT manager shed cold sweat. And we do care, so expect us to be there on the dot everytime.

It's all about doing what we said we would. And doing something about it still, if we don't.
It's that clear. It's that simple.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

BAYAN TEL

www.bayantel.com.ph

PORTOFINO

THE MOST COVETED, UP-MARKET PROPERTY IN THE SOUTH:

A MASTERPLANNED MASTERPIECE TAKES SHAPE

A masterpiece neighborhood in Portofino

Brittany Corporation is sculpting the masterplan for Portofino, Alabang into a masterpiece.

Access to 300 hectares, all of Portofino's enclaves—Portofino Heights and Portofino South, the enclaves for custom home sites, Courtyards I and II of Portofino, the enclaves for courtyard homes, and The WHARLOCK® of Portofino, the custom home sites with wide frontage—are progressing at a fast pace.

The courtyard: an oasis in the outdoor while indoors

Amenities are swiftly developing as well. The pools, inspired by Roman baths, and the Club House provide for a life of leisure. And soon a commercial area will rise right in between Portofino Heights and Portofino South.

The Italian inspiration, the theme that envelops the Portofino masterplan, is clearly evident in the homes' earthen colors, stone cladding, arches and other architectural details.

The location makes for easy access to the nearby commercial areas, business districts, leisure destinations, schools and hospitals.

With the enclaves and amenities, the central location, and its unique property-wide theme, Brittany puts together all the masterful strokes that make Portofino a masterpiece in property development.

See a masterpiece in the works.

For a Property Preview, call 850 6986 or 850 2868 or click www.brittany.com.ph

Portofino
ALABANG

SOME THINGS ARE CLEARLY VALUABLE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

The name is true of Portofino. Upon seeing the panoramic landscape, we envisioned a masterplan property rising: enclaves of grand communities in the spirit of Old World Italy, each one a haven, bought as a home for life as its focus: wide thoroughfares that lead to nearby commercial, business and leisure destinations; recreational amenities that enrich the family's home life. Today that vision, artfully, takes shape. Portofino is quickly developing. As a masterpiece (literally), the vision for Portofino shines through.

Own a valuable investment. Homes and lots, lots only and courtyard homes are available at Portofino.

Get a Property Preview | 850 2868 or 850 6986 | www.brittany.com.ph

Brittany

Opposition has no viable alternative–bishops

By Jaymee Anog

THE CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS believes an Edsa-type People Power movement can not be repeated because the opposition is not only divided but has failed to provide an acceptable alternative to solve the country's political crisis, the leader of the influential Catholic bishops Conference of the Philippines said yesterday.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo told members of the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, a Jesuit-led organization of priests, seminarians and lay people engaged in religious and social ministry, that conditions obtaining in the country today were different from those during the Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 People Power uprisings which were "peaceful, nonviolent and successful."

"There seems to be no absence of a credible alternative or rallying point that could unite the divided opposition," he said. "That was what the bishops seemed to have been looking for, that the opposition offer a credible, viable alternative through a process that would be peaceful, nonviolent and with hope of success."

Sitting on the laurels

Lagdameo, who is the archbishop of Jaro in Iloilo, lamented, however, that after Edsa 1 and Edsa 2, both the Church and State appeared to have "sat on the laurels of success."

"There was very little or no follow-up to establish new avenues of public life and public service," he said.

Lagdameo devoted much of his talk on how the CBCP came up with the two pastoral statements it issued in the wake of the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal. He said that despite the differences between the July 10, 2005 and Jan. 29, 2006 statements, "both were expressions of the bishops' communion and collegiality."

"In both, the bishops spoke their minds. Like the Twelve Apostles, they shared their diversities, discussions and differences, then argued their points passionately like Peter and Paul, but in the midst of all this, at the end of the day they would go back to the roots of their identity as bishops," he explained.

The CBCP's July 10, 2005 statement, titled "Restoring Trust: A Plea for Moral Values in Philippine Politics," was believed to have aimed Mrs. Arroyo as the focal mounting calls to resign at the height of the scandal.

Centerpiece

The centerpiece of the statement was: "In a spirit of humility and truth, we declare our prayerfully-discerned collective decision: that we do not recommend her resignation. Yet neither do we encourage her simply to dismiss such a call from others."

Lagdameo said the second part of the declaration "seemed to have been forgotten or ignored."

The bishops' statement was explained, rejected measures that were counter-constitutional as unconstitutional, such as junta and revolutionary councils because of questions like: Will it not produce new injustices? Does peaceful change not have the potential? Will it not result into a civil war?

"Admittedly the July statement contained the desideratum for removing moral values, but it did not elaborate the ways and means of restoring our political life."

The bishop's statement came about since the bishops, after evaluating the response of the government and sentiments of the people since July, felt that there was a need to elaborate on the "plea for the moral values in Philippine Politics."

Lagdameo also recounted that the preparations for the statement began Jan. 23 with a dialogue with the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines and the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines.

Morato likens CBCP to Spanish-era friars

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HISTORY REPEATing itself" is how Manuel "Manolo" Morato describes the latest pastoral letter issued by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Morato, who is director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes and a staunch defender of President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that the bishops' letter "brought to mind what the Spanish friars did to our country during the time of Jose Rizal."

"They not only ran the Church but the government as well. They intruded in matters of the State that fouled up Las Islas Filipinas. The natives rioted up, hating them," Morato said in a statement faxed to the Inquirer.

"Sadly, the bishops speak on issues they are not really competent on. Worse, they seem to ignore the example the parishes of Christ calling. They may express their opinion, but not in a dictating manner," he said.

Insulting what he described as the CBCP's "misplaced priorities," Morato said the bishops "should learn to be closer to their wards."

"In this day, the truth about Bishop Theodore Skinner has not been settled as to whether or not he indeed molested his secretary three years ago). Is it because he is one of those that the CBCP refuses to settle the issue? And how about the other bishop under impropriety's cocoon and been seen climbing to Antipolo City?"

Morato said he "sure's hell" that the CBCP would speak out or the soon-to-be-released Hollywood film "Da Vinci Code," which is a distortion on the life of Christ "if indeed the bishops are after the truth, they should have been among the first to speak out in defense of our Lord whose Glorious Being is maligned in Dan Brown's best-selling book of the same title."

"In public parleyings they hold under the guise of prayer rallies, we see them with the non-believers, atheists, gamblers, grassroot thieves and more and those who are out to get a straightforward government," he said.

On the CBCP pastoral that any normal man in the Gamble area he down by a non-situational conversion, Morato said: "Aside from the tremendous cost of building one and the delay we can suffer, what kind of delegates can we elect in this country? Over 400 of them. We are playing with fire. There is the danger of electing non-leaders, 'jueteng' lords and other criminal elements."

Do you have BAD BREATH?

Incredible price with TFT LCD Monitor

SOUTH AMERICA
Spectacular CARNIVAL in RIO
Adams EXPRESS TRAVEL

INVEST in AUSTRALIA
Expected boom in 2008/09.
The names behind the PROJECTS!

We Buy Diamonds! Cash Paid Instantly
JOAILLIER

NOW OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT
Every child deserves a good education.
KOSTKA SCHOOL
PEDIAkids are ready for the BIG SCHOOLS!
CALL
KOSTKA Quezon City
426-0334 426-4913
Kostka Marikina City
942-7881 942-7882
Pedia House PRESCHOOL
426-0276
426-7506

TAKE THE FIRST STEP OF EARNING MILLIONS...
BE OUR BUSINESS PARTNER
BOTTLED WATER MANUFACTURING
WE WILL TRAIN YOU AND ENDORSE EXISTING CUSTOMERS
KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR UNIQUE BUSINESS CONCEPT
FREE Seminar Feb. 9, 2006 @ 10am
CALL US NOW! Open on sundays
Tel: (02) 367-71-34 / 0915-306-5222
Look for: TONY MONTENEGRO

Earn an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts in just 15 months!
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management

GRAND OPEN HOUSE
PHINMA
P5,147
813-PPHC (7742)
8917-813-PPHC (7742)
8922-813-PPHC (7742)
www.spaziobernardo.com
SPAZIO BERNARDO
SHANGRI-LA BUYERS FEEL SUN
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
2544 Taft Avenue, Manila, Philippines 1004

By taking this test you could transform the future of advertising.
Just don't forget to write your name at the top.

Name | Email address

Examination: The Creative Mind.
Date: Sunday, 5 February 2006.
Time permitted: Not more than 0 days.

Instructions to candidates: You must be aged 18-35. If you're more visual than verbal, feel free to submit answers that are beautifully illustrated but woefully written. And vice versa.

1. How would you sell dog food to cats? (5 points)

2. Draw a picture of your favorite song. (8 points)

3. Which of the following is the most important ingredient of a TV commercial? (5 points)

☐ an attractive celebrity ☐ a memorable jingle ☐ a strong idea ☐ lagoons

4. a) Come up with an amazing new invention. (4 points)

b) Advertise it. (4 points)

5. Persuade Angelina Jolie to drop Brad Pitt for the writer of this exam. (5 points)

6. Design a logo for Lowclasses. (5 points)

7. Think of a campaign to make snake-belching brace clean up their act. (8 points)

8. What's your favorite commercial and why? (0 points, we're just curious)

9. You've just been home with no transport, no phone and no money. You've injured both legs. And it's against your religion to ride bikes. Or hop. How do you get back in one piece? (4 points)

10. The Advertising Agency Network of the Year for 2005 was (16 points)

☐ BBDO ☐ JOBO ☐ BOBO ☐ ADOBO

Important details: BBDO Partners Design is setting us a course for talented people aged 18-35 who want to make brilliant ads. It will be fun, part-time, fun and hard work. Send your answers to recruitment@bbdo.co.nz, by 5pm, 30 May 2006. Successful entrants will be invited to attend a design workshop on 10 June. Winners will be announced on 17 June. Please note: Winners may be required to do photographic shoots regardless of age. We invite you to see examples of our work at www.bbdo.co.nz/portfolio. The deadline is 28 February 2006 please see the exams are finished and only the best will make it. Good luck.

74 dreams crushed

Front page A1

The victims included the elderly, pregnant women, toddlers, entire families or neighborhoods who since Monday had taken shelter in pregroves or deep enough to read newspapers in the open at rest heading to the game of the terms.

Many of the dead were women crushed against a fenced-steel gate at the bottom of a slope or trampled underfoot. At least one child was killed, hospital officials said.

It was not the first stampede to occur at the Arena.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a thorough probe and the "culmination of results within 72 hours," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza had ordered the National Telecommunications Commission to look into any "possible culpability" of ABS-CBN. Several hours elapsed before the crew could be identified.

In a brief message late, Bunye said that Local Government Undersecretary Rhoda Gaspar, chair of a fact-finding team, had subpoenaed ABS-CBN executive Charo Santos-Concio, Metrowave head Orlando Vea and Arena manager Ricky Palou for the crew's handling of the affair's organizing committee and the chief of the security of the Ultra event to appear before the DILG at 1 p.m. today.

Show cancelled

ABS-CBN cancelled the anniversary celebration of one of its most-watched TV shows, which has sparked a savage battle with other most shows, particularly "Eat Bulaga."

Many 50,000 people were waiting to get inside the stadium when the mayhem erupted, Iwag Mayor Nicasio Bautista said, according to the Associated Press.

Casualty reports were conflicting.

The Eastern Police District listed 79 dead and 320 injured as of 7:30 p.m. But Philippine Red Cross chairman Sen. Richard Gordon said the official Red Cross count was 74 dead, including one person who died of injuries last night at the Medical City.

Vice President Noli de Castro also initially reported 79 killed but later said he was told by health department officials that there had been a double-counting of names.

ABS-CBN officials told reporters their figure was 78 dead but in website at 6:20 p.m., reported 79 killed.

The deaths occurred in a fairly small area of a passageway leading into the football field, reporting the victims were trapped in a spot where they had nowhere else to go. The spot where they died bore no bloodstains.

Guard Jester Sagalisa recalled seeing entire rows of bodies falling over the gates, piling up on top of those piling up on top of them.

He hours after the stampede, some of the injured were still checking into hospitals.

Emotion said the melee erupted as the crowd pushed and surged toward the gates, pressing and trampling those in front. (See related story on Page A11).

STOMPED UNITS TRACKS. survivors run with (in search of here and between to a game show called Showtime.

The gates were being partially opened then shut," said Maria Bolanos, 42, who had spent all night in line and was one of the injured. "People in the back of the line were pushing me knowing there were already people dead lying on the ground in front."

Families and police denied reports that the stampede was caused by somebody shouting "Bomb! Bomb!"

Several hours after the incident, fearful survivors were still looking for missing parents, children or relatives.

Half-eaten food

The once-teeming streets outside the stadium were strewn with slippers and shoes, bags, cardboard boxes, articles of clothing, and half-eaten food.

Oddly, though, the day's tragedy seemed to reveal something bizarre in the Filipino psyche: Instead of going home, thousands of bittersweet fans who made it to the stadium before the stampede decided to stay put, holding on to their tickets and their seats, still hoping the show would go on.

By 1:30 p.m., vastly less frenzied fans, reduced to a sobbing, bruised figure, climbed the stage and apologized to the gallerist and those watching from their homes.

"Nobody wanted this to happen. I hope you understand that today's show is being cancelled," he said in Filipino. "Let's pray for those who died or were hurt this morning."

Noli's appeal

His show, he said, was for "Filipinos who think they have lost all hope."

The audience showered him on, some shouting "It's not your fault, Willie!"

From backstage, De Castro, who was once ABS-CBN's biggest media celebrity, joined Ejercitado to appeal for calm and understanding.

"It's not proper that we continue as having fun here while there are 79 people dead and more than 200 others injured in hospitals right now," De Castro said.

Dr. Castro led the crowd in a minute of silence for the victims.

Security lapse?

"There appears to be a lapse in security," Mayor Bautista told the reporters. "The management got a permit from the City Hall, but they should have also consulted with us for the security measures, especially with a crowd this big."

Most of those killed were brought to the Medical City before they were transferred to the Arlington Funeral Homes in Pasig City.

"We did not expect that would happen. We just were to make people happy every day. We hope people will understand that we just wanted to help," Bautista said in separate conference at the Arena.

Outside, other hours of the program hugged near members and broke into tears. Soon, ABS-CBN officials, including its stars and owner Gabby Lopez, arrived.

'We're devastated'

"It's insensitive to continue the show," said ABS-CBN's Concio. "We're all devastated."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines offered prayers and condolences.

"Our hearts bleed in sorrow for the victims who, coming from the penance of the poor, had no other intention but to be entertained and probably get some prizes given out by the show," CBCP President Jose Lazo Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said.

President in black

Ms. Arroyo formed a five-man team to look into the tragedy.

De Castro said the team would be composed of representatives from the DILG, the local government of Pasig, the Department of Health, the Office of Civil Defense, and the National Capital Region Police Office.

The team will find out what really happened, who was responsible, and recommend measures to prevent a repeat of the tragedy.

The President went to a Black Nazarene where she left Malacañang to console some of the injured being treated at the Rizal Medical Hospital. In his radio message, Ejercitado promised to treat of a middle-aged woman who had suffered a leg injury.

Caused by poverty

"The Ultra stampede is the real state of the economy. It's not PGI, its the dollar, it's 79 lives in the pass," said fashion president Wilson Fortaleza.

Rapan secretary general Sonia to Bayan said: "The real tragedy is the poverty that pushes people to join these hopes in game shows; that is what is underlying."

Bautista's incident was not the first time fans had stampeded to try and watch an ABS-CBN show.

In Cebu last year, shades and pieces of metal railings flew as fans jammed a stage to get close to the stage during a mini show of the network. No one was hurt among the spectators but some the stairs suffered bruises.

Network officials said they knew in the past fans were pumped.

Network officials said they knew in the past fans were pumped.

In 2000, eight people were injured when crowds jostled their way into the Philippine football field to watch Taiwanese celebrities Vanness Wu, Sen Chu and Barbie Su.

In September 2005, four young men were trampled to death in metamphetamine during a rock concert at the Zamboanga Stadium (Inquirer.net, GMA, GR C. Cabrera-gan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana, Sherman Desiderio, Rina Jimenez-David, Ria Jaime)

The WORLD

Editor Lenorie B. Gozon

Ferry ablaze for hours before it sank

AN EGYPTIAN woman cries as she witnesses the port of Safaga Feb. 4 as people wait for news of survivors from the sunken ferry. AFP/EPA

SAFAGA, EGYPT—RESCUE BOATS HAVE PICKED UP 405 SURvivors from the Egyptian ferry that sank in the Red Sea after a fire on board, police in this port said Saturday. Most of the ship's 1,400 passengers and crew are feared lost.

Investigators were still reading to determine the fire's connection to the sinking, the minister, Mohammed Lotfy Hussein, said reporters. He described the fire as "small" and said there was no explosion on the vessel, which went down before dawn on Friday.

Hilmy said the fire began early in the trip. Investors 90 minutes or 2 1/2 hours after departure according to various accounts—but the ship kept going and the fire burned for hours. Their accounts varied on the location of the fire, with some mentioning a storeroom or engine room.

"They decided to keep going. It's negligence," one survivor, Nabil Zikry, said before he was moved along by police, who tried to keep the survivors from talking to journalists.

"It was like the Titanic on fire," another one shouted.

Ahmed Heiw, an Egyptian in his 30s, said he went to the ship's crew to report the fire and they told him to help with the water hoses to put it out. At one point there was an explosion, he said.

When the ship began sinking, Heiw said he jumped into the water and swam for several hours. He said he saw one lifeboat overturn because it was overloaded with people. He eventually got into another lifeboat. "Around me people were crying and sinking," he said.

Several survivors shouted to journalists their anger over slow rescue efforts. "They left us in the water for 24 hours. A helicopter came above us and circled, we would signal and they ignored us," one man shouted. "The fires are the cheapest in the world," another said.

A spokesperson for President Hosni Mubarak said the ferry did not have enough lifeboats, said government-owned television. The safety of the 25-year-old, rubber ship that was weighed down with 220 cars as well as the passengers.

"It's a roll-on, roll-off ferry, and there is big question mark over the stability of this kind of ship," said David Osler of the London shipping paper Lloyd's List. "It would only take a bit of water to get on board this ship and it would be all over ... The percentage of this type of ferry involved in this type of disaster is huge."

Weather may also have been a factor. There were high winds and a sandstorm overnight on Saudi Arabia's west coast. AP

Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines
NIBOR
FREE APPRAISAL
INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS
Highest Price and Instant Cash for old and modern cut Diamond from 2 carats up to 30 carats.
Pawnship owners and agents are welcome.
By Appointment Only:
Mobile: (0917) 840-1973
Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm
Central Jewelry at the Jewellery Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Manila

Embattled Thai PM says he'll quit if king asks

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN Shinawatra said he would step down if the king asked him to, as he sought to defuse claims of corruption that rivals who plan to demand his resignation at a rally Saturday.

He accused his leading critic, media mogul Sondhi Limthongkul, of seeking his resignation as revenge over telephone deal gone sour.

"A majority of the people want me to remain as working. Only the King can ask me to resign, if he whispered to me, 'Thaksin you can quit now,' I would promptly punish' at his feet and step down immediately," Thaksin said in his weekly radio address.

"I will not surrender otherwise," he said in an impromptu speech.

Thaksin also gave a detailed defense of his family's controversial sale of Shin Corp., the telecom giant that he founded, ending to resolve a public outcry over the $1.9-billion deal with Singapore's state-owned investment firm Temasek.

Protesters led by Sondhi want Thaksin to resign over corruption allegations...most recently over the Shin Corp. deal, which involved a 38-percent capital gains tax and prompted opposition to investigate possible wrongdoing.

The Shin Corp. controversy has embroiled Thaksin's family and rattled his government, with the cabinet minister resigning Friday over concern about "ethics in government."

Sondhi plans to petition Thailand's revered king Bhumibol Adulyadej to step in, in hopes that a royal statement could pressure the premier to resign or call new elections.

The king has no official power to oust the prime minister, but he wields great influence over Thai society.

Thaksin accused Sondhi of seeking revenge over a failed business venture, in which Sondhi had teamed heavily in a non-television station that was blocked by regulatory hurdles.

"He wanted to get into the television business," but regulators blocked the deal, Thaksin said. "There he accused me of not protecting him. But I have to take responsibility and balance my work, which involves every issue that affects the entire country," he added.

The premier also vowed not to mobilize his supporters in a counterprotest, saying he wanted the crisis to unfold peacefully. AFP

2 girls kidnapped 6 years ago found

LELEIGTON, NORTH CAROLINA—TWO girls abducted more than six years ago were reunited with their father this week after they were found during a traffic stop, the FBI said.

Authorities have said the girls, ages 6 and 8 at the time of the abduction, were picked up by their mother, Joyce Linda Mowrey Smyre, and her brother, Stephen Kirk Murrey, on Dec. 17, 1999, from their father's home.

Despite a court order, the girls were not returned, authorities said. A 16-year-old was also taken from the home once later found abandoned at a hotel.

The girls, whom the FBI on Friday did not identify by name, were found in a car during a traffic stop Thursday in Lillington when a law enforcement officer became suspicious and identified Smyre.

The FBI said Murrey, 41, is charged with removal of minor children in North Carolina in violation of a custody order and an unlawful flight to avoid prosecution; authorities were still searching for Murrey, the FBI said. AP

Ang PAGTAAS ng buwis sa Gobyerno ay PAGTAAS ng serbisyo sa Tao.

GAMIT NG R-VAT

EDUKASYON
Magpapatayo ng 521 gusali o 2,086 silid aralan.

KALUSUGAN
"Insurance Premiums" para sa 3.1 Million "indigents" sa walang kakayahang magbayad.

KALIKASAN
Magtatanim ng 9,190 ektarya ng kagubatan upang maiiwas matamnan ng mga puno.

AGRIKULTURA
Magtatayo ng 1,012 kilometro na Farm-to-Market Roads.

Ang paggamit ng VAT para sa mga proyektong pang-masa ay tataas bawa't taon:

30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010

A Development Communication Service DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

Cartoons row boils; leaders urge calm

MANILA—EUROPEAN LEADERS CALLED on Friday for restraint as Muslim-staged protests over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad they consider blasphemous and more newspapers reprinted the images in the name of press freedom.

Muslim protesters in Indonesia, Turkey and The Palestinian West Bank staged violent demonstrations against the caricatures of the Prophet, one with a refrain to avenging a leak.

"I am concerned ... about this escalation we have seen over the last few days," said Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, whose country holds the European Union's presidency.

"From my point of view it is high time to take a step back and realise as effort to ease things with such calmness, and focus. The language or gestures of threats goes in nowhere," she told a news conference in Vienna.

But there was little respite in the fury of Muslims as to a debate over freedom of speech versus respect for religion. For some Muslims shocked by the Prophet Mohammad is forbidden.

French President Jacques Chirac, whose country has the largest Muslim population in Europe, appealed for all sides to avoid "anything that could offend others' conscience."

The Paris-based United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [Unesco] called for reason and "a calm and enlightened dialogue" between communities with different cultures and religions.

In the name of press freedom, more European newspapers ran controversial cartoons. The Belgian newspaper De Standaard reproduced the pictures along with letters from readers in favor of publication.

The United States condemned the cartoons, siding with Muslims outraged that newspapers put press freedom over respect for religion.

"We ... respect freedom of the press and expression but it must be coupled with press responsibility. Stoking religious or ethnic hatred in this manner is not acceptable," said state department spokesperson Kelly Cooper.

In New York, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said it was time for Muslims to put the matter behind them.

"What is important is that the newspaper that initially published the cartoons has apologized, and I would urge my Muslim friends to accept the apology, to accept it in the name of Allah the merciful, said 'let's move on,'" he told reporters at UN headquarters.

He also appealed to all sides to do the same "not to take any measures that will inflame an already difficult situation." Denmark's newspapers have so far refused to publish the cartoons, casting them provocative.

Danish Foreign Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen says Muslim outrage is out of proportion.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen says Muslim outrage is out of proportion.

"I believe the republication of these cartoons has been unnecessary, it has been insensitive, it has been disrespectful and it has been wrong," he said.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen says Muslim outrage is out of proportion.

Danish White

...ests the Danish flyshaun during a demonstration in...

US to make long-range arms as hedge against China

WASHINGTON...THE UNITED STATES will build new long-range weapons in a hedge against potential rivals like China, the major power has placed its challenge US supremacy, the Pentagon said in a new strategic blueprint on Friday.

The plan also would boost US special forces by 15 percent to fight terrorism, create a military task force to thwart outsiders of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and expand psychological warfare capabilities.

The Pentagon released the congressionally mandated Quadrennial Defense Review to outline its strategy for meeting anticipated security threats in the next 20 years.

The blueprint comes at a time of strain for the US military with 138,000 troops fighting a nearly 5-year-old war in Iraq and thousands more in Afghanistan searching for al Qaida network leaders.

It said the clashes of "major and emerging powers," including India, Russia and China, would be key in the 21st century international security environment.

"Of the major and emerging powers, China has the greatest potential to compete militarily with the United States and field disruptive military technologies that could over time offset traditional US military advantages absent US countervailing strategies," the document said.

The United States is eager to head off any showdown with China over Taiwan, the self-governing island off China's coast over which Beijing claims sovereignty. China has vowed to attack Taiwan if it formally declares independence.

The report said China was likely to continue making large investments in such weapons as ballistic and cruise missiles, air defense systems and submarines, adding, "The pace and scope of China's military build-up already poses regional military hedges in it."

The United States spoke to dissuade China and others from developing capabilities that could threaten regional stability and to defeat aggression if deterrence failed, the report said.

Referring to China's large territory and a lack of US bases in the area, the Pentagon said it plans a premium on "forces capable of sustained operations at great distances."

The blueprint, unveiled before Monday's delivery to Congress of a 2007 defense budget request of $970.2 billion, recommended a new long-range "strike" capability to be fielded by 2018 and modernizing the current bomber force.

The new capability could include manned or unmanned bombers as well as directed-energy weapons such as lasers. The Air Force Air Combat Command began a yearlong analysis of options for such a capability in October.

The plan called for increasing the number of aircraft carriers in the fleet to five or six and maintaining 60 percent of Navy submarines there, while doubling to two the number of attack submarines brought annually by 2012.

The Pentagon cited what it called the uncertain nature of threats in the post-Sept. 11 world.

"More than on Sept. 10th, 2001, I can tell you now that US forces in all probability will be engaged somewhere in the world in the next decade where they're not currently engaged," senior Pentagon policy official Ryan Henry told reporters.

The document said North Korea was developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and sending weapons overseas.

It cited Iran for developing long-range missiles and taking steps toward producing nuclear weapons.

To combat terrorist networks, it said the Pentagon will increase special operations forces 15 percent from the current 51,000 and boost the number of special operations battalions by a third. These forces, a favorite of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, are more highly trained and capable of taking on more sensitive missions than regular forces.

The document called for creating a military task force to keep terrorist groups from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, and spending $1.5 billion over five years to develop medical countermeasures to germ warfare agents.

The plan would increase purchases of unmanned aircraft like the Predator and the Global Hawk drones, nearly doubling such surveillance capabilities. It also would expand psychological operations and civil affairs units by a third.

Reuters

...s reprint cartoons, ...be intimidated

New Zealand's economy.

The federation holds the national contract to orally most slaughtered to traditional Islamic requirements.

"We won't call for a boycott, and we don't want to see one, but news gets around the world pretty quickly," he told the Dominion Post.

New Zealand is the world's biggest exporter of sheep meat, but exports to the Middle East made up only about 4 percent of total exports in the year to May 2004, according to the Meat Industry Association of New Zealand.

Newspapers in France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Hungary reprinted the cartoons this week, saying press freedom was more important than the protests and boycotts they have provoked.

However, many Muslims consider any image of Prophet Mohammad to be blasphemous and offensive and the publication has sparked outrage across the Islamic world.

Reuters

Ex-Cheney aide to face trial in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON...A FEDERAL JUDGE ON FRIDAY set a January 2007 trial date for a former top White House aide facing perjury and other charges in the leak of a CIA operative's identity, pushing the trial past November's congressional elections.

The judge said jury selection would begin on Jan. 8 in the case of Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff. He faces five counts of perjury, making false statements and obstruction of justice.

Libby, who attended the hearing, has pleaded not guilty to the charges, which stem from a special prosecutor's investigation into who in the Bush administration leaked CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity to the news media in 2003, effectively ending her career at the spy agency.

Her identity was disclosed after her husband, diplomat Joseph Wilson, accused the Bush administration of twisting intelligence on weapons of mass destruction to justify the war in Iraq.

President George W. Bush's main political adviser, Karl Rove, remains under investigation in the Plame case.

A trial could put a spotlight on how the White House made its case for the Iraq war and raise questions about the role of the news media and whether reporters should have to testify in court.

Lawyers on both sides of Libby's case said they needed time to examine classified government material, amidst a dispute over what evidence should be shared and address legal issues over the involvement of reporters who may have to testify at trial.

Reuters

TIT FOR TAT
US sends home Venezuela envoy

WASHINGTON...US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS hit a new low Friday as Washington ordered a Venezuelan diplomat expelled in retaliation for Caracas' move to kick out a US naval attache on espionage charges.

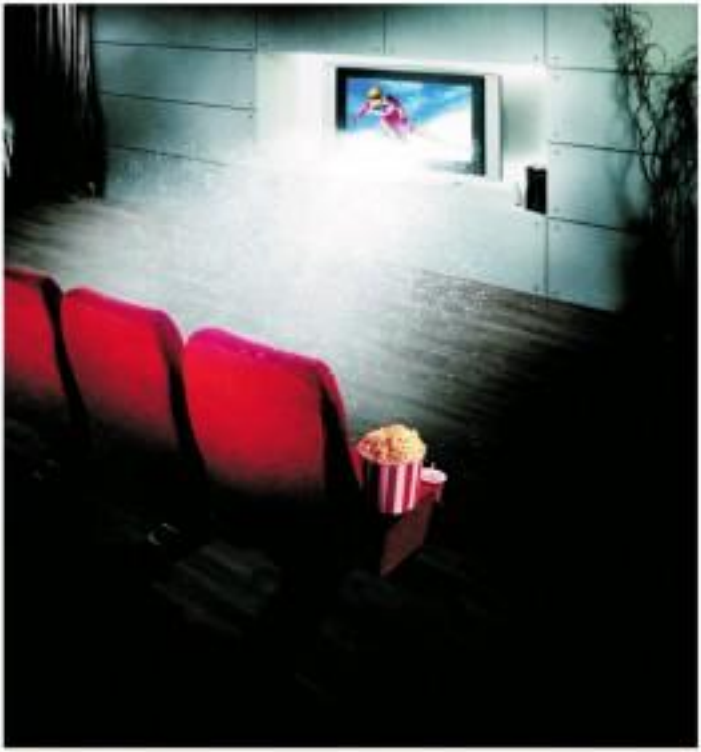
State department spokesperson Sean McCormack said Washington had ordered Venezuela by diplomatic note that it was declaring Army Figueredo Frias, a minister counselor at the embassy here, persona non grata.

"This decision is in response to the government of Venezuela's decision to summarily expel Commander John Correa, US naval attache in the US Embassy in Caracas," McCormack said.

McCormack said Figueredo, the chief of staff to Venezuela's ambassador, had 72 hours to leave. He did not accuse her of anything but said simply she was "the most appropriate" choice for expulsion.

"We don't like to get into tit-for-tat games like this with the Venezuelan government, but they've created this and are now forced to respond," McCormack told the daily state department briefing.

AFP



INQUIRER

OPINION

Ultra tragedy

THE STAMPEDE THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF dozens of people at the Philippine Arena yesterday stunned many of us into silence. When the news broke, we found ourselves unable for a time to suspend our disbelief. Who would have thought that a simple and generous gesture shown, promising even more prizes on the occasion of its first anniversary, would turn, in a matter of minutes, into a terrible tragedy?

EDITORIAL

Tragedy, to the classic Greek sense, was a fate determined in advance; it wasn't an accident, but a date with destiny. Today, we use the word to mean the exact opposite. It is something that isn't inevitable. Something is tragic precisely because it is avoidable.

In this sense, the "Wowowee" stampede is a tragedy, and a deeply disturbing one. The victims were innocents, simple folk who waited in line, perhaps even since Wednesday, for the chance to win perhaps P300K or perhaps P10,000, or perhaps, for the truly lucky one, a house and lot worth P2.5 million.

They were also almost all women. The roll call of their names, read over and over again on the radio yesterday—Rosalinda, Trinidad, Virginia, Nita, Elizabeth, Ofelia, Rosa, Belen, Fe, Dolores—sum truly dolorous, raise sorrowful mystery after another.

Did any of them imagine that in their attempt to realize their dreams, they would end up dying from a nightmare? The dreams must have been modest: cash to tide one over until the next day, money to pay debts off, a chance to start a small business, a house to call one's own. In the case of a 4-year-old girl who lost her life in the crush, the dream was even simpler: the chance to see Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie in the flesh.

It is too early to know exactly what happened (or what failed to happen). But certain questions must clearly be asked.

Was there, in the first place, a failure on the part of the show's producers and the anniversary event organizers to prepare for just such an emergency? Sen. Richard Gordon, who is also chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, has stated the telling observer of ambulances and mobile clinics in the area. His point is painfully, but instructive. Was there a failure in failing shared by many Filipinos, an almost premonitory sense of unease and foreboding, that something terrible could actually happen?

What crowd management procedures were in effect, not only at the time of the stampede—which newspapers said occurred at around 6:30 or 6:45 a.m. on Saturday—but also during the build-up to that event? The line to enter the stadium started forming on Wednesday or three days before the anniversary show. By Friday morning, the line had formed around the enormous block where the Philippine Arena is located; perhaps as many as 30,000 people were already in the queue. But according to Bevilleme, the stadium (perhaps because of the special stage constructed for the event) could only accommodate 9,000 guests. What were the guidelines used to control—or manage the expectations of—the growing crowd?

Was it possible to distribute the all-important qualifying tickets, which would allow lucky guests to join the show's cash-rich contests and which numbered about 300, to a less risky manner? According to some estimates, at the time the stampede happened the crowd had swollen to about 50,000; many of them still expecting they had a chance at securing the key tickets. Perhaps there could have already been raffled off, and the names listed in an earlier show. Perhaps these could have been distributed at satellites, once the audience was already in the stadium.

Was 6 a.m. in fact the published time—in other words, the time those in the queue expected—for opening the gates to the stadium? Initial reports, by ABS-CBN itself, the network with the "Wowowee," suggest that the stampede happened because the gates were not opened at the appointed time. It is easy to imagine a weary crowd turning agitated.

Of course, no one expected this. But a misled ABS-CBN has quickly gotten down to work. It has pulled out all the stops to make amends, pledged to assume all related expenses, and deployed its reporters to cover the ambulancing news.

Should it allow the show to continue? The show must go on, some have urged the network. Perhaps it really should, but only for one last time, to honor the tickets that have already been distributed. And then it should stop, a fittingly mute witness to the tragedy that struck on dumb.

'Voting separately'

SEPARATE OPINION

Raguoni A. Cruz

ARE SEE, SEC. 1 OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION provides that its amendment or revision may be proposed by Congress "upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members" or by constitutional convention to be called by Congress under Sec. 3 "by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members." There is now a controversy on how the phrase "of all its Members" should be determined.

One view is that each vote should be based on the totality of the membership of Congress without distinction between the two chambers. There are now 236 members in the House of Representatives and 23 members in the Senate, giving Congress a total membership of 259. Three-fourths of this number is 194 and two-thirds is 173. Under this computation, the required votes may come exclusively from the House of Representatives over the objection of even all the 23 senatorial senators.

The adversaries of this interpretation argue that the Constitution should be basically construed in accordance with its clear language as the primary aid in determining its intention. All secondary aids are instrumental and may be resorted to only if the meaning of the Constitution is ambiguous, which is not so in this case.

They say that if the Constitutional Convention of 1986 had intended that the two chambers should have conjunctually said so. For example, Art. VI, Sec. 23 (1) provides that "the Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war." Conversely, Art. VII, Sec. 18, on the grant of executive clemency, and Art. IX-B, on the protection of the privileges of habeas corpus, provides that "the Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its Members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension..."

The opposite view, as provided by Fr. Joaquin Bernas in his column www.sweda.ago, is that excluding the Senate under the first interpretation would lead to the absurd effect of requiring it to muster a majority vote to exercise the power of changing the Constitution. Congress is a bicameral body and its two chambers should act together unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. Interpretative aids to ambiguous simpler provisions, or *ex ante* inconsistencies or absurdities. I agree with the conclusion and hope it is correct, but I have misgivings about the reasons Father Bernas gives.

I am not persuaded by the argument that silent a specific reservation by the Constitution, all other powers granted to Congress should be exercised by the two chambers voting separately (even if this is not expressly required). This may be true in the exercise of lesser functions not necessarily in the discharge of its most legislative functions like the revision of the Constitution.

I believe that when the Constitution requires the two chambers to vote separately, it still an indicate unequivocally. Thus, it states in Art. III, Sec. 2, that in case of a tie between two presidential candidates with the highest number of votes "one of them shall be chosen by the vote of a majority of all the Members of both Houses of Congress, voting separately." Section 9 provides that the President's nominee for the vacated Vice-Presidency shall need "confirmation by a majority vote of all the Members of both Houses of Congress, voting separately." Section 13 also carefully provides that Congress may declare the incapacity of the President "by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, voting separately."

Why was separate voting still expressly required in these provisions if it was supposed anyway to be the accepted rule?

Incidentally, what will happen if the Senate supports candidate A and the House of Representatives votes separately for candidate B or if one chamber finds the President incapacitated and the other chamber says he is not? But that is another story.

The collaborative partnership of the two chambers was long ago affirmed by the Supreme Court in Gonzales v. Imbomiro, 18 SCRA 370, which held that the adjournment for the of the Senate automatically also adjourned the House of Representatives because "the House will not be in session is not Congress." Despite the doubts Dean expressed here, I hope this case will reject the attempt of the House of Representatives to exclude the Senate in the proposal to change the Constitution.

All this controversy could have been avoided if the Constitutional Commission of 1986 (which held from July to Oct. 1986) or the 1971 Constitutional Convention (which met in 1971) had the required votes of all the members of Congress should be taken from the two chambers, voting separately. The commissioners simply copied the corresponding provisions in the 1973 Constitution perhaps forgetting that the Batasang Pambansa did not have to vote separately because it was unicameral. Unlike the bicameral Congress they were replacing.

If the question of the proper interpretation of Article XVII is elevated to the Supreme Court, let us pray that it will resolve this constitutional dilemma with wisdom and courage.

Letting go, and moving on

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN EMPLOYEE who, thinking it was the opportune time to ask for a promotion, boldly approached his boss during the wake of their company executive assistant and said: "Sir, he is now in the coffin. Can I take his place?" to which the boss replied: "Well, if you can fit into the coffin, why not?"

...

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1, 29-39) Jesus reminds us that there is nothing that can take the place of prayer. No matter how busy one is, no "no demand" Jesus says, the disciple must still be a devoted place to pray is there still a place for prayer in you life? Do you take time still to pray? No matter how important a person you are (or think you are) remember that Jesus was a very important person. But He always took time still to pray.

...

If Jesus never took time off to pray because of His busy schedule, He would not have finished the three years of public ministry He was preaching and healing from morning till evening, with "the whole town gathered at his door," and everyone looking for Him, but he knew how to quietly disappear and hide away to recharge and commune with the Father. Great people know how to disappear and hide away. People of lesser greatness are those who don't know how to disappear and hide away.

...

It is interesting to note that the first recruits of Jesus were the ones who sought Him out in His solitude in say that everyone was looking for Him. As in Jesus' time, so it is to me time. Be ones around a leader, a personality or a celebrity are the ones who are more aggressive and more defensive than their boss. Why? Because of the benefits they get from their position. They want their boss to stay on, no matter what, so that they could continue to enjoy their rewards and perks. It is sad that rulers and personalities are set aside easily these days for personal gain and ambition.

...

Let go, let God, and move on. There is one lesson in life we all need to learn. Summer is not forever. So is death. So is wealth. So is beauty. So is power. Life is more of letting go than holding on. Someone beautifully put it: in the end, only three things matter: how deeply we loved, how fully we lived, and how we let go of things or people we meant for us. Mission is moving. Mission is crossing over. Mission is moving on.

...

Speaking of missions, 10 young men were ordained priests last Feb. 5 at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay, by His Excellency Luis Clinio Tagle, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Imus. Four of these Divine Word missionaries are Filipinos and are assigned in Vietnam; one is a Congolese assigned in the Philippines; five are Filipinos, one of whom are assigned to Papua New Guinea and to East Timor, making true what Jesus says in today's Gospel "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For that purpose I have come." Praise God for these generous missionaries who leave home, country and family for the sake of the Kingdom of God. They are witnesses to the Word in the world (www), leaving home, country and family, braving deprivation, loneliness and even persecution so that the heart of Jesus lives in the hearts of all." One with you!

...

All of us are missionaries. We are all equipped to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." We are to make a difference wherever we go, whatever we do. Making a difference doesn't mean doing great things in high places. It simply means doing God's will and proclaiming. His message in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. Are you doing your mission for the Lord? Are you making a difference?

...

Feb. 4 is World Cancer Day. This year we focus on children with cancer. Last December, I met 3-year-old Sesi Augusto-Perez who goes through chemotherapy weekly and many other medical procedures. She spread (sp. bone marrow aspiration and even blood and platelet transfusions. It is estimated that there are 3,000 new cases of childhood cancer in the Philippines. Parents should be sensitive to the signs of childhood cancers, such as unexplained bruises and high fever. We salute Sesi and the thousands of children who gamely fight child hood cancers. Gamely? Because love has remained cheerful and playful through it all. Such a happy, smiling child! And such a prayerful child, talking to Jesus and Mary (dead or if they were just at his side. Come to think of it, Jesus and Mary are always at our side!

...

Vincent Antonio, Fatima Soriano, Steve Augusto-Perez are just some of the few children I have met through the years, who thought (and act with pain at an early age, have chosen to accept cancer courage and faith. So young, so fragile, and so wounded, but so full of hope. They are a real inspiration. They are doing their mission. And they are moving on. We salute them, and their parents and guardians who share in their mission.

...

Calling all members of CST Beta Gamma Phi Fraternity for a grand reunion on Feb. 11 12. See particulars, call Dr. Lito Santos (09175001230) and/or Dr. Tony Garcia (09179320280).

...

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to learn to let go, let God, and move on. Amen.

The public face of the Armed Forces

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT JOBS in any government institution is that of a spokesman, information officer or public affairs director of the office. This is especially true when the products or programs it shepherded is controversy, or if people suspect a lack of transparency in the presentation of the different sides of a current issue. There are also certain factors that influence our acceptance of the accuracy of statements being made by information officers. Their ability to express and explain their views with clarity and understanding is certainly an important point. Tone is also a vital ingredient in any exchange of information, and credibility is built around consistent tones, whether a person is known for the way he says it, we tend to accept or reject the very issue, to keep an open mind about any subject that is presented in the course of discussion. When this trust is breached, reconstruction is almost impossible.

Ray Cline, a former deputy CIA press secretary of President Ronald Reagan, he was also the spokesman for the administration. Unfortunately he didn't last very long in the job. Circumstances conspired to make him choose between personal loyalty to the president, on the one hand, and candor to the media on the other. Apparently, he had not been saying much when asked about the Persian Gulf situation. As a result, he was exiled to Honolulu in 1990 to serve as the country's first naval general in its fledgling foreign service. He retired from the CIA in 1991 and died in 1995 from the Philippine Island, a Michigan-owned Daily.

In the Armed Forces of the Philippines, there are four officers who, more often than others, represent the public face of the organization. They have the unenviable task of trying to explain to a skeptical public the difficult issues that confront the Armed Forces—issues such as the apolitical stance of the military in our society, the meaning of loyalty to the chain of command, the supposed action in security sectors of the armed forces, the political nature of the organization by outside forces, the possible involvement of military officers in business activities, and the controversial issue of military officers' involvement in politics.

The Army Public Affairs Office is headed by Maj. Gen. Victor Ibrado, who also serves as Army spokesman. He is a graduate of PMA class of 1980. Prior to this position, Ibrado served as a member of administrative and operational assignments, including a deployment to Iraq with the Army of Occupation. He specialization courses include Strategic Intelligence Training in Washington, D.C., Operations Orientation in Canada, and Public Affairs Orientation in Hawaii.

Ibrado is also the proud holder of the Medal of Valor, the highest award in the AFP, for campaign courage, gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty during a 13-hour encounter with 100 communist terrorists in Isabela on Feb. 28, 1981.

The director for public information and spokesman for the Philippine Air Force is Lt. Col. Bernard F. Batilla, Jr. A member of PMA class of 1985, Batilla is a graduate of courses that are much time as a tactical helicopter pilot flying ground support missions for the AFP and participating in numerous rescue and relief operations during times of calamities and disasters.

Batilla is the son of a former army commander Maj. Gen. Bernardo Batilla, PMA class of 1957. He continues to serve in the proud tradition of his father. He studied at the Air University in Alabama and attended the Asian Institute of Management where he obtained a master's degree in Development Management. During the Valentine Revolution in Quezon in 2004, I recall that he was called in by news reporters for the professional manner in which he handled media-related problems, particularly those that concerned air transportation. On varying days, he was "lent to non-aviators."

Perhaps, one has advice and some give to these five officers who—if you think about it—are not professional public relations practitioners, to be. Whenever you reappear, whenever you reassess your case, one has. When one stick to the facts, you win.

'Sakayan ng jeep'

I HEARD IN A LITTLE CORNER OF UP DILIMAN AIR UNIT talked basis on the Ahit floor of one of the apartment buildings. It takes a full 12 minutes and 34 seconds to get from front door to classroom. The reason—best of the time, I at 10 am again—is that 12 minutes and 34 seconds are the way morning classes (with the exception of my honors class, on of a sequential bus of the professor who locks the door at 10 sharp and personally ignores sheepish, puppy-dog-eyed begging through the ghost window).

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

The arena I live in is cheaper, as it is, transiting out from the main road. It's a penny small place, just two connecting corners leading to a dead end. Once in side-though, corner is the scene of the EBDA and MIS CBN scenes, it's hard to confuse scenes in Metro Manila, much less the scenes of Quezon City. In the morning, in true parochial fashion, the air is cold, the grass is wet, the birds chirp, there's even a rooster in our garage, and fresh pan de sal is sold for a penny each about the corner. A couple of vendors walk through fast-moving, "Ipanis, dedkah, Anchovies!" and, just recently, "Mani!"

I don't own a car—a fact time friends, family and the average bystander should be thankful for. In the last four years, I've ridden every form of public transportation available in the greater Metro Manila area. As I'm already with me a vocation on the MRT, and am dearly less wealthy owning one of the metal to contribute for my calories, I'm resigning on to the jeepney. Near ends, expect a dissertation on the pedicab.

Every morning, at 7 a.m., there's a rumbling down the lane that means something in between a dragon's roar and a 747 airplane. One jeep—jeeps that are proudly call "the shorts"), slowly nudges down from the main road at the way to the dead end, to collect all spots in the main road. Li'l me my, there are the lank down. I'm not too traditional from the dead end, the rear is a spend to stuff a cushion in my mouth, grab my gigantic purse and take the one free ride before the—easier than wrestling cows climbing up the roof to search of overgrown fishes. There it's not the door and down the flights of stairs. By the time I hit the ground floor passenger, ready for pick up, the jeep will have just finished its U-turn.

The driver has also become a good friend. While I can see front and dragging a comb through my hair, he tells me about the last movie he's seen, his girlfriend back home in the Visayas, that he deposits me for the chart to wish for the next "Idol" jeepney to swing by.

The yellow-painted box goes around the campus, one ride currently costing P6.50, its counterpart, the "Idol," mostly roughly the same route in the opposite direction. I've always been afraid of saying "para," or knocking on the roof or making a hand or making any of the half-dozen other ways to make the jeepney stop so I could get off. There is neither rhyme nor reason to the list, as I am at this as a clown's to be mistaken for a mime. Sometimes I'm ignored, sometimes I don't but nobody else would stop the jeep unless I want to disembark. I've found myself travelling far afield route simply because I was too nervous to say a word, until even the driver gave me the arrangen look when I sheepishly arose down the same place I got on, then hopped back in. Thank goodness, I found my voice.

Let the neighbor. After picking up on my inability to master the exclamations of the Spanish language (and probably tired of my whinings), my Spanish teacher told me the secret of a voice in Spain called Cuenca. She said the people lived off water that came from a nearby dam. One day the water stopped running. The people couldn't figure out what was wrong, so finally they made a thorough inspection of the dam. There the dam...they found a cow blocking the way.

The moral of the story, said my bright-eyed teacher in delicious seriousness, is to find your cow.

Although I'm still looking for my inner cow that blows out a "No compromise," to every Spanish encounter, I did find the cow-blocking my ability to properly utilize the best of Philippine transportation. I may never get it perfect, but at least either "Para!" or the hapless driver, which I suppose is even easier and more in touch with the jeepney makes an always easy. I feel powerful.

Beside the driver, over the monotheist, is usually some form of city idiot, with a money hanging over the rearview mirror. If not, drivers mumble their creativity by naming their land in mini "Mio" or "Honda Wave" or in Baguio, jeepney drivers use the whole jeepney as their canvas. The front is decorated by chrome horns, side mirrors that are nowhere near the side, and names of daughters, lovers, mothers and wives. The side is decorated with portraits of Jesus in various stages of his life, along with landscapes, astrological signs (with a special fondness for Virgo and Aquarius), cartoon characters, and bad nudes. The rearview contains more glass or as headset in the pink and purple chenille work by the driver's great-grandmother.

"Inspired," I claim just loathed, to a distraction from "Jeep" and "Jesus," I'm growing because my inner has made some such random other forms while riding along.

When I get on the jeep, I relax a jump into the front seat to ride the driver, or more accurately, to be myself to the end near the exit. I figure this is a girl thing, as a dare seems to be the most valued piece of real estate, judging from the numerous movements of females around the upper arches-repairs. My logic is, the closer to the exit, the less the probability that I will ridden ride, hanging head on the railing or unintentionally stepping on a guy's foot. I've also developed a system of balancing my purse, keeping it on the top-knee-and-thigh. But my attention I avoid is to take the awesome role of resolution that sitting behind the driver implies, with "Bayad po" twice-burning in your ear.

The jeepney first made its way down the streets of Cuzco after World War II, when the Americans left behind thousands of its military jeeps. As with Thailand's tuk tuk, London's Black Cab, Vietnam's cyclo and Japan's bullet trains, the jeep is a microcosm of the country: something American made with ease, colorful, practical and distinctly Filipino.

I can hear the shuttle catching downstairs (in a late 20 different times in the last four hours), and this will be how my episode ends. If only I can say "Para po," to the universe.

* * *

E-mail the author at patevangelista@gmail.com

A 'jewel' of a series

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

INTRIGUE AND CORRUPTION IN THE PALACE. A family whose members conspire to destroy anyone who threatens their hold on power of who puts their freedom interests at risk. A battle who is not in between two conflicting sets of values. A love story between a commoner and a prince who must choose between her head and her heart.

The Philippines in the new millennium? Come again. This describes Korea in the 16th century, during the Choson Dynasty when the country was ruled by a king and the women was a mainstay of the Chinese empire.

The Korean soap opera is the newest in the Palace." 354-episode TV series which, when it aired its series in 2003, garnered an average rating of 54 percent for its premiere network MBC, the highest ever in Korean TV history. The show would prove to set the standard for the rest of the Korean TV dramas and historical China. Currently airing on GMA Channel 7, "Jewel in the Palace" is bringing in, on average, ratings of 36-38 percent. This is, says Jenny Mendoza of GMA's programming department, "very good for yours truly."

What's the secret of Jewel's success? It tells the story of Jang Geum, an orphan who grows up as a skilled maid in the Palace, with ambitions of being promoted to the rank of royal doctor. She rises through a series of ban. Jang Geum ends up as a woman doctor, eventually being named King Jung Jong's personal physician, defying the conventions of patriarchal Korea. Her story is immortalized in the drama the King names her "Jean Jang Geum" or "the great Jang Geum," which is the show's original title. Jang Geum also happens to be a real personage in Korean history, as is King Jung Jong, though much of the series' material is fictional.

* * *

JANG Geum—plucky, intelligent, courageous, principled and often too outspoken for her own good—is a wonderful creation for a leading lady in a drama series. There's also a love story element to her good character, between Jang Geum and the devoted scholar, scholar Min Jung Ho.

But beyond the characters and the absorbing story (which sometimes can be convoluted to solve plots, cuts and e-mail inquiries on everything from the dishes prepared in the show to the herbal remedies mentioned.

Indeed, one could learn the plot in the show's corner-level in their history, culture and medicine—all in local dialect and tone. Appealing shared, and which seems through in the detailed depictions of ancient court life, the cast furnished, on the costumes and settings, even the lasting way of speaking—to the point that Jewel has become the dramatic scourge or a field of wild grass-driven crowd against the setting sun.

Reaching Korea in the Palace," I couldn't help but have a twinge of envy for my counterparts in Korea, who get to enjoy such high-level entertainment, for which also manages no comments on the lingering vestiges of the past on the present.

Korea, for instance, has not been one divided into "historical" dramas and so called "comedy-dramas," which tackle more contemporary themes, often centered on complicated love stories. But in Jewel in the Palace," the past is made out just as an setting but also as a context for Jang Geum's personality development and the measure of her triumph.

* * *

What other have we heard scholars and historians between the "Palace" lacks of opportunities for our history and heritage, which makes it difficult for us to care deeply? Not just for our heritage buildings and artifacts, but even for our contemporary culture and traditions?

Finally a show similar to "Jewel" do the trick? Or do we lack for historical productions—the series on epochal events of Philippine history produced by the ABS-CBN Foundation comes to mind, as does "Iron Flag" by Gerry Fitzo—that they have yet to equal the success and international appeal of "Jewel."

But for such a show to emerge from the Philippine entertainment industry, we have to possess first that a measure of pride in our past, respect for our traditions, and certainty about who and what we are as a people. There are many "Jang Geums" in our stories of long ago. All we need to do is find them and tell them well.

The work of a columnist

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WITHOUT MYSTIFYING MY CRAFT, BUT QUITE-ing liberally from my column last Sunday, my friend and fellow human columnist, Amando Doronila, called mine (TTR, 2/1/06) articles on my criticism of Commission on Elections Commission Chair Jose V. Abalos and newly-appointed Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Rafael Alunan 3, Daniel Z. Romualdez and Bernie Ferrer. At I sent some Doronila defense of Abalos and Bernie in the spirit of public debate, of which there is so little in our society. I will respond to his remarks.

He thinks that in criticizing Alunan and his wife, I have made a grievous error that clearly left unaddressed. "So far as I know, his enthusiasm" is a passion that has been questioned even in madness. If "academic detachment" were my goal, I would not write an opinion column. I would write a treatise on the subject, using the language stripped of social judgment. Frankly Doronila does not believe that academic research, written in the dry dispassionate style of scholars, are the only justifiable assessment that can be made of the world we live in. I have previously kept case that in media article continuing to work in the university because I refuse to be trapped in academic debates that have little or no with the social reality of ordinary people.

Of course, this does not mean that a columnist is free to say anything he wants. I believe, as I believe that, harsh as it may seem, I am justified in my assertion that Dr. Alunan has lent himself as a "group to a moribund presidency" Doronila himself reminders that "the regime that appointed Alunan is now in its death throes" and that "it is over." No longer is attached to a regime that to have to confront the array of legitimacy based on real internal people itself up by the cynical use of the power of appointments and endorsements.

I disagree that the issue from a simple that of acceptance or rejection of appointment. "Powerful ones impressive positions in the government because many become warm every day and they are routinely filled by the president in the appointing authority. At long as they exist through a credible mandate from the people, no matter how offensive or controversial their actions may be, they are entitled to the respect due their office."

The Army Public Affairs Office is headed by Maj. Victor Ibrado, who also serves as Army spokesman. He is a member of PMA class of 1980. Prior to this position, Ibrado served as a member of administrative and operational assignments, including a deployment to Iraq with the Army of Occupation. He specialization courses include Strategic Intelligence Training in Washington, D.C., Operations Orientation in Canada, and Public Affairs Orientation in Hawaii.

Ibrado is also the proud holder of the Medal of Valor, the highest award in the AFP, for campaign courage, gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty during a 13-hour encounter with 100 communist terrorists in Isabela on Feb. 28, 1981.

The director for public information and spokesman for the Philippine Air Force is Lt. Col. Bernard F. Batilla, Jr. A member of PMA class of 1985, Batilla is a graduate of courses that are much time as a tactical helicopter pilot flying ground support missions for the AFP and participating in numerous rescue and relief operations during times of calamities and disasters.

Batilla is the son of a former army commander Maj. Gen. Bernardo Batilla, PMA class of 1957. He continues to serve in the proud tradition of his father. He studied at the Air University in Alabama and attended the Asian Institute of Management where he obtained a master's degree in Development Management. During the Valentine Revolution in Quezon in 2004, I recall that he was called in by news reporters for the professional manner in which he handled media-related problems, particularly those that concerned air transportation. On varying days, he was "lent to non-aviators."

Perhaps, one has advice and some give to these five officers who—if you think about it—are not professional public relations practitioners, to be. Whenever you reappear, whenever you reassess your case, one has. When one stick to the facts, you win.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan F. Sarmiento Jr.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS CALLED FOR the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995, saying that it "destroys life." The law opens up the country's mining industry to foreign companies.

In a statement issued on Jan. 29, the CBCP highlighted the threat posed by large-scale mining operations to the people's right to food and livelihood, to their health, and to the environment.

"Our experiences of environmental tragedies and incidents with the mining transnational corporations belie all assurances of sustainable and responsible mining that the Arroyo administration is claiming," the bishops said.

The bishops said the "promised economic benefits of mining by these transnational corporations are outweighed by the dislocation of communities especially among our indigenous brothers and sisters."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had said that mining could easily wipe out the country's foreign debts and not leave more for future generations.

The bishops urged Ms Arroyo to recall all approved mining concessions and to disapprove pending applications.

To appease the bishops, Malacañang has offered to suspend the issuance of new mining permits.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines warned that repealing the Mining Act would result in the loss of some two million jobs and "bankruptcy" of the government.

Mining Act revisited

'We're committed to responsible mining'

By Benjamin Philip Bernaldez

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) calling for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995, the cancellation of all mining concessions and disapproval of mining applications is sweeping and wrong. The issues surrounding the Mining Act have been resolved with finality by the highest court of the country.

The positioned the CBCP handed, will lead to widespread opposition on the country's efforts to enhance the economic base. The repeal of the Mining Act, the recall of all approved mining concessions and the suggested disapproval of pending applications will result in the following:

1. Loss of jobs for more than 2 million people who are directly and indirectly connected with the mining industry. This will result in widespread unemployment and destitution of their families, thereby aggravating the economy and endangering 10 million more Filipinos into abject poverty.

2. Bankruptcy of the Philippine government since billions of dollars will have to be paid to the companies for their investments that life.

3. The availability of the country will be eroded and will adversely affect the importing modern and economic fundamentals, talcand credit rating.

We as Chamber of Mines share the concerns about poverty, protection of individual rights and freedom, and the environment.

We are committed to responsible mining and sustainable development of our resources.

We welcome our office to open an honest dialogue so that we all can resolve undiscussed the CBCP's concerns.

We are confident that, upon further reflection, this up-to-date position of the CBCP will change. God has blessed us with rich mineral wealth to be respected and developed for the benefit of our people.

Help us, and let us work together to achieve a better life for Filipinos.

Benjamin Philip is the president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and of Benguet Corp.)

Mining, right now, is the country's ticket to progress. What is holding us back is an uninformed perception that we can do away with mining

'To stop mining is to stop progress'

By John Sarmiento

LAMBETTES AMPO-RAPU POLY-metallic project has been bugging the Intellicent family entirely because of the call of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to stop all large-scale mining as a way of protecting the environment and giving the poor a better life.

It is said that there are mining companies are the best parties to help achieve all these unpromised and unrealistically here because their recent huge amounts of money and foreign [illegible] technology.

The only issue is that mining is now being defined by the national mine code [illegible] that conveniently are floating as the rule, instead of the exception. The proposed amendment of chapter is to nullify and overturn that it is actually [illegible] science and technique investigated, it [illegible] model that a partnership exists North Korea and a booming Chinese export agency.

Later last year, the Ampo-Rapu project had two more incidents. The solution to use as close it down but to let it operate under the auspices of called and under the direct of [illegible] to do this, a new management team, which has the competence and the track record in mining established by environmental issues, took over recently.

New management

Carlos E. Dominguez II the new chair and president of Lafayette Philippines, the new management of Ampo-Rapu, has a history of his company in addition to all the latest-used criteria of all sectors and is committed to meeting as a minimum all the legal requirements on environmental protection and sustainable mining operations.

He has also thrown open Ampo-Rapu to interested and various organizations to do buy and foreigners as part of his policy of transparency and efforts to find out why the [illegible] happened and what safeguards he could to put in place.

"Since I took over two weeks ago, I gave an irrevocable commitment that the Ampo-Rapu project in Abra will not initiate operations unless all the safety and environmental requirements are met, and wherever possible, exceeded," Dominguez said.

He added, "The technical has now no practical reasonable to accuse we should do much more than is required if we are to regain the full trust of our stakeholders and in a partner once again in the growth of the communities and the country."

Misunderstood

Mining is a partnership with the communities. It pays the government many millions in terms of the revenues. It generates new businesses and thousands of jobs. It is also in the best position to be supported by environmentally sound. Besides and others basic needs because it operates in the area.

Dominguez said mining is misunderstood because it is viewed only from the perspective. said. "Mining is part of our daily lives and we cannot live without it and we are willing to give up for [illegible] operations, regulations, because the houses, roads and bridges cars, buses, planes and ships, cell phones and computers, and electricity [illegible] a few."

"To stop mining is to stop progress. The answer is to make sure mining relevant legislated and enforced. The mining companies, on the other hand, must completely comply. We, the new management of Lafayette, will adhere to this," Dominguez said.

Dominguez turned around Ampo-Philippines Amalgamated Investing Incorporated Corp. (Apaic), a mineral processing company that fully complied with all requirements and did not have any environmental and pollution issues with legislators.

He is also committed to the letter of the Mining Code program, which he pushed when he was the agriculture secretary under the Aquino administration.

Dominguez is a director and the corporate secretary of Lafayette Philippines Inc.)

RP has 25 percent of world's known nickel reserves

By Lee Gamolo

THE PHILIPPINES CAN BE ONE OF the richest countries in the region if only it can get on act together and tap into its vast resources.

If the mineable data are all, the Philippines has 25 percent of the world's known nickel reserves. And other rivers are other minerals in great abundance.

The National Economic Development Authority estimated the country's mineral resources to be worth $1 trillion to $840, making the country the fifth richest in the region. Mineral giants have dug through the soil since then.

Forty men and three, people say it was the Philippines would find oil, it would be nuts. it [illegible] until we find oil. It is actually mining [illegible] we are mistaken mineral the value of which boggles the mind.

But it also boggles the mind to hear of how talk is any large-scale mining in that the environment can be preserved, and to amplify and [illegible] the livelihood people in the area.

But other alternative livelihood found? Tricycle? Dressing? Vibrancy? All these depend on mining. the steel, the [illegible] and the boats and nets. Our daily life is dependent on materials from being things such as Portland and cement, nails to minerals. We still and barrow without either.

Bilung, right now, at the moment's notice to pinpoint. What is holding us back is an uninformed perception that we can do away with mining. On the contrary, the solution is to make sure that mining rules are right and are followed, not to stop. Responsible that have the technology and the [illegible] to prevent [illegible] mankind.

Mindoro floods

In Oriental Mindoro, there had been calls to blame mining. Mining Corp. and Citinickel, which also had been savagely accused of being a cause of the recent floods, have entered, absolutely heavy rainfall was the reason, and there were also neighboring mountains that floods as well.

The company has not been mining at all in the area, which used to be a logging concession. The company simply has been getting reinforcements to find out if the area has enough rainfall which mentoring to.

Its activities are limited to taking test drill samples the diameter of a small soft drink bottle. It has been in the soil an deeper than 25 meters to get soil samples that find a total weight of only 500 kilograms and water just over 1.8 cubic tanks. No vegetation was removed. No road was built.

Mangyan

The only the company employs both Mangyans and landowners. They are trained to do the [illegible] surveying, and [illegible] pay Agtabang Mining has built bridges, provided electricity and maintained a clinic. Schoolchildren are provided allowances on the days they attend classes. It is a model company.

If and when the company actually goes into operation, the best communities, the province and the whole economy will all share existence and benefits. Residents are ready because of the evident protection in the country because of its share from the revenues.

Thousands of people will be employed directly and indirectly. And the new bridge [illegible] from CDW hanging for house and a better life. That is the promise of local mining and it is time for the talking.

Lee Gamolo is the general manager of Citinickel Philippines.)

THE CBCP STATEMENT IS irresponsible and dishonest. "The issues and resolutions in all of us in the Chamber of Mines and we have not been consulted. It takes for its statements, it will have a direct impact on 2,000 employees of Philex Mining.

I could walk away from all these because I have earned my keep, so I am about to retire. But how about the people to be affected by the massive job displacement if mining projects are cancelled?

What will happen to their families? This should be a lesson to everybody concerned, especially those with the power to influence. The bandages should be very careful with such statements. — Marlon Ayson, chair and CEO, Philex Mining Corp.

'Flagship project' a disaster

By David Doran

A DAY AFTER ALL HOPES DIED, MY friends Willy Flores had two big pieces of blue fly marble. Yeah from the sea. We had a couple of beers with the rest of the family and then we headed to see that a week ago my friend and driving buddy Spring Landing, the provincial fisheries officer, had observed from a lovely working on construction of an alleged mine spoil.

It happened in the town of Lilliputian Philippine Inc. Jan. 26. It is the neighboring island of Mindoro, which is considered to a fish kill. I wondered whether it was the same place where the blue marble we just ate came from. I decided to investigate.

Where I saw a pall full of rotting native specimens collected for us by local fishermen, I said to myself: "My God, something is very very wrong here!" It was a word that I shared by most of us in the group.

Anxiety

Residents of the MAR complex did not enter the grounds of the [illegible] section of the public, which were declared the safety of fish products from the area. Day by day, the people refused to eat, buy, sell, and eventually fish. The [illegible] indignity of the course of Ampo-Rapu in filing and of Prime Gas, Exhet and Barcelona in foreign provinces, and Baron Bearer of Investments Corporation.

Where is to blame? The rain exacted? The heavy public? The fishermen? The toxic spill? The mining firm? The Mining Act of 1995? The government?

This was supposed to be a flagship project, where were the flagship operations? We were left to our own devices to deal with a problem we perceived as very much feasible. We had to make do with government agencies that ignored us and acted like spokespersons of the mining company.

Officials of the Department of Environment and National Resources claimed that the fish kills were minimal, but the effects were unmistakable. Are we to be sacrificed for the pursuit of development and the [illegible] of gold?

The small coast of Prime Gas has been at the forefront of environmental protection and the corresponding law enforcement. It has received national awards for various environmental programs.

What is there to protect when people themselves protect the the gilligan? Does the government prefer how demanding this to let people who painstakingly worked for the protection of the environment against unwarranted conflict like the spill and the subsequent indifference of the agencies, we thought we should look after our interest. It is time for us to put our act together.

An old fisherman told me that as long as the water is clear, there is no fish kill and absence in the fish he and others catch will never be removed. The same is a threat to the coral reefs that protect our coasts, to the fish in our seas, to the mangroves we love, to the hounding [whale shark] everybody knows, to the things we cherish, and to our very selves.

(Doran is a councilor of Puerto Galera.)

Across the NATION

Ex-senator drives away farmers from agri land

SILANG, CAVITE—TENSION gripped a small agricultural village here at about 400 armed policemen, security guards and members of a demolition team on Friday zone down the houses of 42 farmer-tenants of a contested 25-hectare property being claimed by former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr.

At about 6:15 a.m. in Barangay Cabuco, elements of the provincial mobile group of the Cavite police recovered members of the demolition team hired by the former movie actor and politician, whose dates to hunt was his portrayal of underdogs in the movies.

"The demolition of our residences was clearly illegal and a violation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law," said Teodoro Garcia, chair of the Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Cabuyao in Diamond.

More than 300 individuals were displaced by the demolition. Most houses were concrete.

"They [the policemen and the demolition team] started to destroy our houses without giving us formal notice. They even forced us there as the demolition order from the court," an angry Garcia told the Inquirer.

Garcia said the policemen likewise failed to coordinate with local government officials.

He said residents of the community decided not to fight it out with the armed components of the demolition team to avoid bloodshed.

"We would not easily be losing our house/lost we would also get hurt," he said.

Chief Supt. Rodel Semerong, intelligence chief of the Cavite police, brushed off Garcia's accusations that the operation was unlawful.

"That's stupid. This operation is very necessary. We have all the legal documents to prosecute them," Semerong said.

The 25-hectare land is planted with coffee, pineapple, banana, papaya patis, coconut, cashew trees and other crops.

"We are tenants here, not squatters. The property should be under the CARP," Garcia said.

Aristeo Aseras, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindanao's 1st call center lacks people

DAVAO CITY—THE FIRST-EVER call center in Mindanao has yet to fully operate because of lack of manpower, a government official said.

G-Com Ltd., which was supposed to operate full-blast this quarter, is being operated by the IBI-based Cyber City Services Ltd.

Teodulo Besana, city trade and industry director, said the company was having a hard time finding "competent individuals" to act as e-Representatives (e-Reps).

"The company is facing hardship in finding workers who have competent skills such as fluency in English and other foreign languages," Besana said.

He said G-Com has already sought help from the regional trade office for the recruitment of at least 50 agents to fill up its manpower needs.

G-Com needs a total of 175 e-Representatives by the end of the quarter so it could go full-blast in its operations.

James Dunn, Cyber City executive director, said they needed college graduates who can speak English or Spanish well, have excellent reasoning skills, are friendly, upbeat and sensitive.

He said e-Reps that the company would train should also be computer literate, willing to work on a shifting schedule and should have professional work clothes.

Dunn said they were not very strict in academic qualifications because any female graduate of a four-year or five-year course could apply. —Judy Quiroz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Peace zone in Tarlac village sought

CAMP OLIVA, PAMPANGA—Officials of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac, have asked Gov. Jose Yap to draw up a plan to turn the town into a peace zone, following clashes between soldiers and communist rebels three on Tuesday that killed one rebel soldier and injured another.

Mayor Reynaldo Medrano said Yap would visit the villages of Sta. Ines West, East and Dentro, the areas where the heavy fighting occurred, on Sunday to analyze conditions that his primarily measures was their safety.

Medrano said the series of clashes between the military and New People's Army rebels instilled fear, if not trauma, among residents of villages in the town.

He is a former member of the government panel involved in peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

"Yes, I practiced to be a very peaceful town; there was no trouble before. But this insurgency problem is beyond our scope. We can't begin a peace initiative because we have not established contacts with the rebels. We might ask Governor Yap to organize," Medrano said in a phone interview on Friday.

He said at least 34 NPA rebels, in 2006, were killed when they clashed with government soldiers in the village of San Vicente.

In Tuesday's three encounters clash, in Sta. Ignacia's hilly areas, Medrano said Army officials did not notify the town government to at least help get residents out of harm's way.

He said some 3,000 people who fled the gunfights have begun returning on Thursday.

Medrano said there were no more immediate risks to the residents' lives.

"[But] there's psychological impact, like fear, because they witnessed the battles. Perhaps among children, there's trauma because the battles happened on a school day," Medrano said.

"They have this fear that more encounter would take place," he added.

The corpse and the bodies are the responsibility of the community service program of more than 100 nursing students from the Bataanenan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

He said the students witnessed the gunfights and an strikes, and joined residents who were on the run. They returned to their area as a result of the incident, he said.

Medrano said he was assisting information from the police. A map of the 10 recovered bodies of the slain rebels belonged to a civilian.

The human rights advocate group Karapatan reported three civilians among the fatalities. The group identified them as Allan Duran, Dante Salgado and William Guzman [not Alfaro as earlier reported]. The military maintained that they were rebels.

The Tarlac villages were put in the same situation as villagers of Quezon town that also became a battlefield of government soldiers and communist rebels on Jan. 30. —Dorothy Otoyan, PDI Central Luzon Desk

University of the Philippines
School of Labor and Industrial Relations
Diliman, Quezon City

The UP-SOLAIR the country's premiere educational institution in the field of industrial relations and human resource development

is now accepting applications for enrollment in its graduate program leading to:

- Diploma in Industrial Relations (Dip IR)
- Master of Industrial Relations (MIR)

You may specialize in any of the following:

- Human Resource Development
- Labor Management Relations
- Labor Policy and Administration
- Comparative Industrial Relations

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: APRIL 10, 2006

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION DATE: APRIL 22, 2006

APPLICATION FORMS are available at the UP-SOLAIR, Office of the College Secretary, Bonifacio Hall, Jacinto St. UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, Diliman, Quezon City.
Nos. 920-6206, U.P. Translines 981-8500 local 4068.
Fax No. 929-7310
or visit our website: http://www.solair.upd.edu.ph

Philippine Society of Hypertension & Philippine Lipid Society
11TH JOINT ANNUAL CONVENTION
February 9-11, 2006 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City

Clinical application of new advances in hypertension and dyslipidemia

LIVING WELL workshop
3rd level, The Podium, 12 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

CAKE DECORATING
Learn to decorate the Wilton way
Catalina Leonin Mueller
US Certificate of Training, Wilton Method Instructor

CAKE DECORATING COURSE 1 (Hands-on)
- Small class size to provide one-on-one instruction
- Two classes per week, 2 sessions a week, 4 sessions
- Course Fee includes Wilton Certificate (after full attendance) and student decorating kits
- Discount privilege & Living Well Newsletter for Wilton merchandise

COURSE FEE: P 6,000.00

Course Dates:
- MW Class: 11:30am - 2:30pm, February 20, 21, 8:22 (M-T-W)
- TH Class: 7:00 - 9:00pm, February 20, 21, 22, & 23 (M-T-W-T)

Course Content: Color Mixing, Coloring the Icing, Cake Preparation, Stiff, Decorating with Star Tips of Round Tips, Wilton Roses, Pattern Transfer, Figure Piping, Leaves, Drop Flowers, Lazarus & Violet, and Flower Arrangements

CAKE DECORATING COURSE 2 (Hands-on)
- Wilton Cake Decorating Course 1 Certificate required
- Four sessions at 3 hours each

Course Content: Rosette, Reverse Shell, Rosebud, Chrysanthemum, Basketweave, Ruffle Border, Lace Work, Royal Icing, Applique Lettering, Embroidery, Wood Grain, Marble Effect, Basket, Pansy, Primrose and Flower Garland

Course Date: February 20, 21, 22, & 24 (M-T-W-T) | 4:00 - 8:00pm
Course Fee: P 6,000.00

For inquiries call REGGIE 632-7911 or SHOPPE 851-1111
Limited Slots Only! Please indicate course and class session when registering.

Check out our Workshop schedule this February!

Special thanks to:
Panasonic, Eiki, Sarah's, shoe Mart

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail us at _____@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jim Bandigan
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

GenSan City dreams of boxing greats

By Aquilino Zonio
General Santos City

SINCE THE 1970S, GENERAL SANTOS, THE southern port city once known as Dadiangas, has been home to many boxing champions, the most popular among them two-time world champion and current World Boxing Council (WBC) super featherweight king Manny Pacquiao.

Another is Rolando Navarrete, who ended the drought in the country's search for a world boxing title in 1981 when he knocked out Guadeloupe Ruan Edwards, the WBC junior lightweight champion, in the third round.

Navarrete became an instant celebrity but later earned the moniker "Bad Boy from Dadiangas" for his wayward tendencies. He successfully defended his crown twice, lost not long after, he fell from grace due to his career takeover and extravagant lifestyle.

Where he lost his title, he was abandoned by his fans, even his wives.

The late Andy Bolotio, Philippine flyweight titleholder, was not as lucky as Navarrete. In 1983, in a failed bid to capture the world flyweight crown, Bolotio died from brain injuries inflicted during a fight with a Korean champion.

Despite the misfortunes of the boxers, many youngsters, most of them coming from poor families, accepted challenge in their footsteps.

Many failed, some succeeded. Inside from Pacquiao, General Santos' favorite son who did well in their boxing careers include Bernie Torres, World Boxing Organization junior bantamweight champion; Alvaro Cordova, WBC International bantamweight champion; and Zaffir Bangkiray, WBC international super-flyweight champion.

Once a boxing haven

There were times when General Santos served as a haven for both amateur and professional boxers. In the 1970s, boxing had become so popular in the city that many boxing stables sprouted and that almost every month, big boxing tournaments were held.

It was during this time when the Bernardo Gilamnon, then considered Mindanao's first modern stadium, was built to cater to the growing number of boxing tourneys staged in the city.

The lull in boxing history occurred only in the late 1990s when the husband of a politician took the helm of the local chapter of Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap).

Continuing program

Adviser "Boy" Gallegos, the chapter then, said that for several decades, the city had consistently contributed on a boxing program to discover young talents from the grassroots.

Gallegos recalled that Cordero, Bodoso and even Pacquiao were products of the Abap-sponsored "Boxing at the Park," a tournament held every weekend at the oval plaza. The competition, now dubbed the "Pagkabuang Alang sa Kalimasan" is a joint project of Abap and the city government.

Gallegos, himself an aficionado, put up the Manny Pacquiao Memorial Gym last year, using his own money and resources.

The Abap official claimed that the gym was named after Pacquiao as a tribute to his feat in bringing honor and pride to the city and the country.

Since construction of the facility began, the Filipino ring icon has not contributed even a single centavo for its maintenance or for support to the fighters from who dreams of becoming future Pacquiaos.

18 in house trainees

The gym is maintained by two trainers—Rodilgo and Dickie Benavera—who are both accomplished boxers.

Benavera was once the top Philippine flyweight contender and Pacquiao's contemporary.

At present, 18 in-house amateur boxers in different weight categories train daily at the gym.

Gallegos is shouldering expenses for food of the boxers, while the city government pays the monthly salary of the trainers.

The Abap chair was grateful that generous businessmen, like Paul Dominguez of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) and Rudy Rivera of the Rivera group of Companies, extended help in the boxers.

Through the swimming lessons program, Gallegos is hopeful that the city will again produce another world-class fighter.

TRAINER: Dennor Benavera teaches one of his 18 amateur boxers how how to work on the punching bag

Promising boxers

Among the 10 amateur boxers training hard at the Pacquiao gym is 12-year-old Rolando Navarrete Jr. and Indian Baraso Sangpas, 15, a former "Boxing Sin-ag" intrist (BB).

Navarrete Jr., the former champion's son by his fourth wife Jenel, won his first fight on Jan. 15 during a tournament in time for the fiesta celebration of Isolan Sto. Niño in Isla village.

Rolando Navarrete, his uncle, said the boy was staying with his other uncle Romeo, a retired Coast Guard official.

The boy, who joined the training pool at the gym just a month ago, was a elementary. His parents and grandfather invited him from his mother's house in Koronadal City and brought back to General Santos to train in boxing. The boy is determined to follow in the footsteps of his idol Pacquiao.

His uncle revealed that Navarrete had once seen the boy training in the gym when he dropped by. But the uncles didn't want the young boxer to stay with his father. Instead, they wanted him to grow up with childhood fighter.

Former street kid

Sarambangan said he used to be with a group of street children, but Rodilgo convinced him to become a boxer.

Despite the hardships in training, Sarambangan, already a local champion in the 36 kilogram category, was happy he left the life of a vagabond.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr., showing his usual support to the city's emerging boxing talents, who will replace Manny?"

He agreed that among other sports, it is only in boxing that the Filipinos can have a big chance of becoming world champions.

He believed that the city managed to produce several champions because of its extensive program and the local residents' passion for the sport.

"The city has been a boxing haven for several decades. Through this, the people have developed a strong passion for boxing. This was complemented by our continuing program to discover young boxing talents on the grassroots level," Acharon said.

Many people, particularly those from poor families, see boxing as a way out of smothering poverty, the mayor said.

Loud music drowned out cries for help

From page A1

Station witnesses recalled hearing someone shouting about a bomb—"Bomba! Bomba!"—at around 6:20 a.m. and seeing the crowd into a panic.

Others said the crowd was simply enraged when the guards decided to close the gates at around that time to regulate the flow of people. By then, the arena itself was packed.

Although the rush caused bone-crushing commotion around the whole stretch of Javier Street, most of the fatalities were recovered at the LRT-1 site.

The three metro-high steel gate opens to a six-meter-wide driveway. The gate opens inward, and the driveway is inclined by about 30 degrees downward from the main road.

Jaime Empelisa, one of the survivors on duty from the Kintex Security Agency, said the push of the crowd was so strong that it tore the ropes that held the gates shut.

Another guard, Rodevick Dias, pointed to a bar in the steel gate that had been bent loose. He said his blue cap and his sightstick were ripped off his body in the commotion.

"We were asking them to back off and be calm because even calmly they would all be allowed to enter, anyway. But they wouldn't listen," said Empelisa.

At 5 a.m.

Security guards and survivors said the crowd started to get wild at about 5 a.m., with people clamoring to get in.

Slowly, the people were allowed entry through the three gates.

But when the guards announced that only 15,000 people would be allowed in and given tickets, all hell broke loose, recalled Vilma Catabang, 48, who had brought her two children.

Per the authorities' estimate, at least 50,000 people queued in front of the gates. Some were there as early as Monday night and slept on the street.

But the arena itself can hold only 9,000 people, while only 6,000 can be accommodated in the football field outside, where ABS-CBN had set up a wide screen.

The tickets were to be raffled off to chosen contestants for the games.

"People started pushing those who were in front of the line," Catabang said.

The compound is hilly, and the guards at the LRT Gate, which slopes downward, tried to control the crowd by opening it only halfway.

But the people started pushing the gate until it gave way at about 6:40 a.m.

Domino effect

The crowd rushed inside, stumbling on the slope, causing a "domino effect," surgeon Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said later at a press conference.

As more and more people got in, some stepped on and walked atop the others. Children and their mothers, even grandmothers, were pinned to the railings and the ground.

Those at the far end kept on pushing, unaware that those in front were being trampled on.

Marlene Cardenas, 33, said she saw the others had no idea that some people, mostly elderly women, were dying in front of the queue.

"They were lifting people who we thought had just collapsed," she said. "But we did not take them seriously because some people had pretended to be fainting just to get ahead of the line."

Eyewitness Melchito Catalog was very sure the gate when it gave way and an estimated 15,000 thong tried to rush in very strongly.

"The guards should have just opened the gates and let the people in," he said.

Catalog denied that it was the "domino" theory" asserting that caused the death.

He said that at around 6 a.m., the show staff announced that it would begin letting people in. It was this announcement that caused the crowd to start rushing for position in order to be among the first 300 inside the arena.

First come, first served

Alberta Herrera, whose 70-year-old mother Artemia died in the tragedy, said they had been told that tickets to the anniversary show were to be distributed at 6 a.m.

But nothing happened, and close to an hour later, the crowd grew impatient and moved to guard the gate.

As early as last night, Herrera and his mother had been dropping to at the arena in the hope of getting tickets. On Monday, they decided to join the others who had started camping outside.

"It was a first-come-first-served basis. We wanted to enter the gate first so we could have those tickets," he said, adding that they had brought food and clothes to last them until the show.

But when they were told that the tickets would be given out at 6 a.m. yesterday, they spent Friday night at their home in Wadhing, Pasay City, and returned at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

Melvin Salazar of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City, who also lost his mother Rosalina, said that when the gates were opened, the crowd madly rushed forward, causing other to fall. He alleges that those gatekeepers had installed for the purpose of ensuring an orderly queue.

He said some clubbered up the arena's seating shed but they fell to the ground when a portion of the roof gave in. Reporters Pamela Joyce E. Pascalingan, Pell Contreras, Edson C. Tendaz Jr., Jaspher R. Uy and Jun Dadoy

THE ANXIOUS FACES of relatives wait for news at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City where hundreds of injured were brought, many of them elderly women.

THE DAY BEFORE THE FALL. On Friday, the day before the show, people already arranged the Philippine Sports Commission (formerly Ultra) rocking up for free tickets. Police with a bullhorn tried to keep order.

'My guards did their best; I'm proud of them'

By Edson C. Tendaz Jr.

ABS-CBN NETWORK PROMISED late night its full cooperation in the investigation of the stampede that killed scores of people.

"We will cooperate fully with whatever investigation the government will undertake," ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez said in a press conference 12 hours after the tragedy.

Jesse Lazo, head of the network's security group, maintained that it had put up six "adequate security plan" for the first anniversary celebration of its television show "Wowowee."

Lazo said that while the ABS-CBN Security Group had "anticipated" the crowd to be "unruly," it was "more than what we expected."

"We thought we had done all that was humanly possible to secure the program," he said.

Lazo said at least 100 ABS-CBN security guards were deployed, outnumbered by 50 security guards of the Philsports complex, policemen, traffic enforcers, and at least 20 watchmen from two barangays.

"My guards did their best. I am proud of my boys," he said.

Steel railings

Lopez also said steel barriers had been erected in front of the LRT Gate of the complex going to the Marcelo-to-Ortigas flyover.

But the door other had fared up in front of the gate became solid and managed to push the railings even though there were manned by security guards, he said.

"That was the first incident," he said. "But we managed to control the crowd after that."

However, Lopez said, the crowd observed pushing the main gate of the entrance.

This time, the gate gave way, sending the people tumbling down the slope and trampling on others, with many elderly women ending up dead.

Medical, funeral expenses

Pilido police had put the death toll at 79, ABS-CBN Foundation head Tina Monzon Palma said the network had monitored 176 dead.

Palma said the network would shoulder the medical and funeral expenses of the injured and the dead.

She said that 275 people were admitted at the Rizal Medical Center, 200 of whom had been discharged, and that 150 people were admitted at the Medical City, where 19 remained under treatment.

The 49 people brought to the Pasig City General Hospital have all been discharged, Palma added.

Reacting to reports that the crowd went wild when told that only 17,000 would be allowed to enter, "Wowowee" production manager Alex Almeden said the limitation was announced as early as Friday midnight.

"We were predicting how many had lined up days ago, who were mostly women and children. Those who lined up late yesterday were mostly men," she said.

SIGNAL AT SCENE OF TRAGEDY: President Arroyo comforts the wounded at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

TV rivalry, politics cast aside . . .

From page A1

ABS-CBN and thanks to Bolaga.

The tragedy pulled together bitter protagonists in the network wars. More significant, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro coordinated efforts with the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN to help the victims and those they left behind. Yesterday Ms Arroyo and De Castro were closely on top of the situation.

De Castro, whose long-running public affairs program Magandang Gabi, bayan was axed by ABS-CBN last month was seen coalescing with network chair Eugenio Lopez III at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City where many of those injured in the stampede were brought.

The cancellation of the De Castro-produced show was allegedly prompted by the Vice President's refusal to break away from Ms Arroyo. ABS-CBN had denied the allegations.

Later, President Arroyo herself attend to check on the wounded and to sympathize with the bereaved.

The government and ABS-CBN were cooperating in the effort to find out exactly what happened, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes reassured at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

"The management of ABS-CBN has announced that it will shoulder all the medical expenses of those injured and the funeral costs of those who died in the incident," De Castro announced to the media at the Rizal Medical Center. Later, De Castro said government would concentrate on the investigation of the tragedy. While Willie Revillame, De Castro asked for understanding for ABS-CBN.

"Kahapon immediately went [to the Ultra and to the RMC] at Vice President to look into what needs to be done," Interior Joint Andres, Dr. Castro's spokesperson said in an interview.

Andres, however, said that De Castro merely entertained when ABS-CBN vice president for entertainment had earlier announced.

It was De Castro who first called up Wowowee host Willie Revillame to inform him about the stampede. Revillame had told the Ultra crowd that regardless of the announcement of rebellion his 1st anniversary show was going to be on. (It was postponed.)

"Politics has been set aside," Andres added.

Ironically, De Castro sounded not unlike the spokesperson of the giant TV network that is generally perceived to have clamped him.

With the network for almost 20 years, he had since been presented as an ABS-CBN lackey to the government until recent political developments soured his relations with the Lopez family.

"[We're] just out of the way [coz] [ok] here is to find out what really happened that caused the stampede," the Vice President said, stressing the investigation was underway.

Lopez, on the other hand, appeared to have no trouble dealing with De Castro amid acting presidential chief of staff Mike Defensor, Interior Secretary Antonio Cruz and Health Secretary Francisco Duque.

Roots of dissension

The Lopez family controls both ABS-CBN and Meralco, the power distributor firm that the government unsuccessfully plans to take over in a bid to reduce electricity rates.

Last month, the long-term opposed that a takeover of Meralco was one of the [illegible] during the [illegible] Arroyo to [illegible] a long-standing dispute between the National Power Corp. and Meralco concerning P42 billion [illegible] reportedly owed the state-owned power generator.

De Castro's statements were interpreted to be supportive of the government takeover plan of Meralco.

RP still open to mining, Palace tells investors

From page A1

the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to suspend new mining permits covering only projects in ultra-sensitive, life-threatened areas in the aftermath of the recent Ormoc-Leyte mine disaster.

"The President supports new investments from responsible mining companies because her administration is both pro-environment and pro-growth," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

The CBCP, which represents the Church hierarchy, ended big business last week when it issued a pastoral letter demanding that President Macapagal-Arroyo reject the Mining Act of 1995 opening the mining sector to investments, cancel all approved mining concessions and suspend pending applications.

The business-minded yesterday that Malacañang had offered to suspend all new mining permits temporarily while the government and Church leaders agree on a more rigid screening process for mine applications.

Mine industry executives sharply criticized the offer, saying it would make the Philippines a pariah in the foreign investment community and abandon two million workers along with some eight million dependents.

For Albay only

Chief of Staff Michael Defensor explained that the statements he had made in Bicol regarding the moratorium on mining permits only covered Albay province, the site of the recent Rapu-Rapu mine disaster.

"The President supports new investments from responsible mining companies because her administration is both pro-environment and pro-growth," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

The CBCP, which represents the Church hierarchy, ended big business last week when it issued a pastoral letter demanding that President Macapagal-Arroyo reject the Mining Act of 1995 opening the mining sector to investments, cancel all approved mining concessions and suspend pending applications.

The business-minded yesterday that Malacañang had offered to suspend all new mining permits temporarily while the government and Church leaders agree on a more rigid screening process for mine applications.

Mine industry executives sharply criticized the offer, saying it would make the Philippines a pariah in the foreign investment community and abandon two million workers along with some eight million dependents.

For Albay only

Chief of Staff Michael Defensor explained that the statements he had made in Bicol regarding the moratorium on mining permits only covered Albay province, the site of the recent Rapu-Rapu mine disaster.

"The new management of Lafayette [the operators of the Rapu-Rapu mine] has committed to heed an independent commission to be selected by the bishops to determine the root cause of the problem," Defensor said.

Defensor assured the CBCP that the government would adopt a "fool-proof" system in preserving mining applications to ensure the protection of local communities, or partially indigenous Filipinos.

This was the best the government could do to address the CBCP's concerns, he said.

"The request for the repeal of the Mining Act has legal and economic implications that are have to study. The policy is the law and we cannot choke that. Any amendments to the law should be exercised through Congress," he said.

In defense of mining

The Palace also stepped up its defense of the mining industry whose recent revival the President expects to bring jobs and make a dent on widespread poverty.

The government expects a turnover of about $5 billion from the mining sector in 2006.

It is aiming for $1.5 billion in new mining investments this year and $6.3 billion over the next five years.

"We believe that the mining sector can be a force for good in many areas throughout our country. Responsible mining ecosystem are a catalyst for economic development in some of the most remote parts of the country," Bunye said.

"Their projects provide much-needed employments for tens of thousands of our most vulnerable, tax revenues that support education, health care and other social services, and modern infrastructure that benefits all sectors in our rural economies."

Bunye said the Arroyo administration shared the bishops' concern for a clean, healthy environment as well as their call to "reduce any negative impact from mining projects."

Assurance

"I want to assure the CBCP and the people of the Philippines that we will continue to closely monitor all mining projects and will only approve new projects with those companies who agree to work with government at all levels," he said.

Bunye said the government has also encouraged the holding of "open, transparent public meetings to include stakeholders from local communities, including religious and civic leaders" that would discuss the entry of new mining ventures.

Surigao Bishop Antonio Ramos, who has been designated the CBCP spokesperson on the issue of mining, said they were holding the President to her promise not to approve any new mining permits, which she made during a rally in Malacañang recently.

"The President must make good her promise because we were sincere in our intentions when we met with her," said the prelate.

In Sto. Santos City, leaders of the B'laan tribal communities said the indigenous communities welcomed mining and told the bishops to leave them alone.

Not evil

"We believe mining is not evil if it helps improve the living conditions of tribal residents in the project area," said a statement signed by five tribal chieftains.

The CBCP call for a mining ban would affect 24 priority mining projects, including that of the Tagolgatan Hilltop Inc. (SMI) in the boundaries of Sultan Kudarat, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato where the communities live.

The bishops said the Mining Act poses a danger to the existence of indigenous communities.

The tribal leaders said the CBCP demand did not reflect the sentiments of the tribespeople living in the mining areas. They said the entry of SMI had done a lot to improve the lives of their people.

They told the CBCP to respect their right to decide for themselves and give them a chance to chart their own destiny.

"If we are going to follow what the bishops wanted, we stand to lose the rare chance of improving our lives. Stopping us of such rights is akin to robbing us, especially our children, of a brighter future. Giving in to what the bishops want for the European copper project would violate our rights to develop," the tribal leaders said. Inirik ni report Jess Aquino Z. Zamco, PDI Alindanao Bureau, and Bobby Q. Lo Juan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

REMAINS TO BE SEEN: Groceries, purses, handbags, thermos, lunch boxes, blankets and other personal effects of the dead and the injured indicated they had planned to roughit out for days in all kinds of weather to get into the game chem.

SHROUD OF DEATH: The victims are lined up at the Medical City hospital lobby on Ortigas Avenue before they were transferred to funeral homes. The unidentified bodies were brought to the Arlington Funeral Center in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Noli, Willie: Tragedy showed extent of RP poverty

By Cynthia D. Baldos

TELEVISION HOST WILLIE REVILLAME and Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said the tragedy that marked the 2nd anniversary celebration of the show "Wowowee" showed the extent of poverty in the Philippines.

Revillame, who was weeping when interviewed on radio, said poor people were dropping to watch the show in the hope of winning the prizes it was offering.

"I did not expect that to happen because all I want to do is make people happy," he said in Filipino. "My program is for the poor people, I'm only the host. This is where we will see how hard our life is. The ones who operate to get to see those who are impoverished. The others wear only slippers. But they are all unfortunate."

Revillame said about 3,000 to 5,000 people would usually line up at the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City to watch the show.

"Wowowee is running because of the people it has helped," he said. "And we can see that they are really hard-up."

De Castro, who also interviewed that among those who went to the Philippine Arena for the show's first anniversary show had come from as far as Ipapri, Cagayan, and that residents in one barrio had to pool their resources to pay for the vehicles they used in going to Bulig City.

De Castro said it was normal for poor people to be the first to fall in line for shows given by politicians.

The Vice President said the tragedy was on eye opener and a "good lesson" for both the ABS-CBN management and government authorities.

He said he had advised officials of the Manila Media Development Authority to also consider the welfare of the people, and not just the pictorial traffic problem, in occasions like the first anniversary show of "Wowowee."

Wowowee: Entertainment, hope . . .

From page A1

consolation prizes for losing contestants to games like "Who of Kwizon" and "Bigsita."

In an interview with Inquirer Entertainment before the show was launched last year, Revillame said "Wowowee" was envisioned to be a source of hope and money for the poor.

"We will do our best to make the entertainment side," he said. "That's why our questions are all give away questions."

Asked why ABS-CBN produced shows that encouraged mendicancy and dependency on dole-outs, ABS- CBN vice president for entertainment Charo Santos-Concio said that the show was meant to redistribute wealth to give hope to the people.

"The reality today is that there are plenty among our countrymen who are poor," the said in a TV interview. "My only hope is give them hope. We're all human, and I think most of us have tried our luck in games of chance. But we are not overseeing any mendicancy."

Tess Manners Enrico, who heads ABS-CBN Foundation, said part of the donations from sponsors were given to Ncto government organizations like Bantay Bata.

"A lot of people have expressed their desire to help," she said in Filipino. "They want to give money to certain organizations. But we check with the NGO's for an accounting of these donations."

"Wowowee" replaced the variety show "MTB...Ang Saya Saya," which was hosted by Edu Manzano and Ai-Ai de las Alas.

It has been drawing thousands of people to the ABS-CBN headquarters in Quezon City.

The show, however, has not surpassed the ratings of "Eat Bulaga," aired on the same time slot on rival network GMA 7, in terms of share of viewers.

BOARD AND PLANNING COMMITTEE—INFRASTRUCTURE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contract No.	Proposed Construction of Supermarket Pure Pan
Brief Description	Bicol, Daraga-Albay, Cagsawa Commercial Center Cor Rizal Dr Pure Dr Pure
Approved Budget for the Contract	714,000,000.00
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a LICENSE (contractor appropriate to the category, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50 % of the ABC, submit any valid PCAB license and membership for the classification of the project). The BAC will not use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in determining the Lowest Calculated Bid. The Lowest Calculated Bid is the one that is the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Execution of Work, Prohibited Practices and Award of Contract are governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

	BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1.	Release of Invitation to Bid	February 6-13, 2006
	Letters of Intent / Pre-bidding	
	Submission for Eligibility	
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 6-13, 2006
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 13, 2006
4.	Release of Results of Eligibility Check	February 14, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bidding Documents	February 15, 2006
6.	Pre-bid Conference	February 20, 2006
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	March 7, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications to duly prequalified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Check Form duly signed by the Provincial Engineer/Architect and the Provincial Administrator/Assistant. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (052) 478-0400 local 113.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications to duly prequalified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Albay reserves the rights/options whether exercised or not/whether stated or not, to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. OLAÑO
Chairman

Date: July 13-19, 2006

Bayanihan spirit alive in Valenzuela

A SCALE model of the Linglingan-Lawang Bato-Canumay road overpass that will link the eastern part of Valenzuela City to the western portion. The overpass, which is expected to be completed in mid-2004, is being built without any assistance from the national government.

By Nancy C. Carvajal

WHEN THE LINGLINGAN-LAWANG BATO-CANUMAY city overpass opens in July, residents in Valenzuela City can refer to it as a success story because, literally, of what local leaders can do when they agree to work together.

It was a single measure for the P302 million project, which will serve as a bridge between the eastern and western parts of the city currently separated by the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), came from the national government.

"The overpass is 100 percent locally funded and not a single centavo from any foreign loan or the national government," Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said during the groundbreaking ceremony held last month.

Major infrastructure projects like overpasses are usually funded by the national government through the Department of Public Works and Highways.

To come up with the money for the project, leaders of the city's 32 barangays agreed to give up their allocation from the local government's internal revenue allotment (IRA) last year.

"All barangay leaders agreed to forgo local projects in 2003 in consideration of the bridge could start," said Alvin Feliciano, barangay chief of Arkong Bato.

He added that the P100 million needed for the overpass, P95 million came from the IRA of the city's 32 barangays.

To come up with the rest of the money, the Valenzuela government borrowed from a local bank, according to Member Mesia, the city's press information officer.

Private landowners also got into the act, according to Gatchalian, giving up part of their property for the project.

"Because of their cooperation, the project could have been delayed," he said.

Project engineer Berlate Angeles, who also heads the City Planning Office, said some selling to meet up their property.

"The family of Cecilia Santiago donated almost half of their 1.4 hectares of land," Angeles said.

Others, however, had to be convinced, including owners of residential apartments, a gasoline station and several restaurants.

"It took us months to convince the owners to sell their land to the local government," said Angeles.

The government ended up paying P3,000 per sq m. to property owners while others asked that their properties be relocated elsewhere.

The overpass will pass through 7.3 hectares of commercial and privately-owned land. It will begin from 8 Dahlia Street in Barangay Lingunan, go across the NLEX, and end on Sisang Bahay Road in Lawang Bato.

Other anticipated, it is expected to reduce travel time in going to and from the eastern and western parts of the city.

"Like old times, it will again be faster to go to the other side, but instead of crossing a railroad, it will be a bridge which is safer," Gatchalian said.

Just like the NLEX, the overpass will have entrances, three each for the southbound and northbound lanes. It will also be as wide as the expressway.

Angeles explains motorists in the eastern part of Valenzuela have to pass through the traffic prone Mayaan Road, and the Malinta interchange along the expressway to get to the other side of the city.

If traffic is light, the trip should take less than an hour. Ordinarily, however, it takes one-and-a-half hours to cross to the other side.

With the completion of the overpass in July, traffic is expected to be reduced by 30 percent on Mayaan Road, which would hopefully also improve traffic flow in surrounding areas.

Gatchalian said the overpass is also envisioned to open up new areas to development and spur economic growth in the city.

But more importantly, the project has opened the eyes of Valenzuela residents to the possibilities of what can be achieved when people get together and buckle down to work.

MMDA goes after households tapping power from traffic lights

By Terra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPment Authority (MMDA) has begun a crackdown on households that source their electricity from the agency's traffic lights.

A nationwide team of operatives from the MMDA, the Manila Electric Co., (Meralco), and the police conducted several operations last month, cutting illegal power connections to traffic lights without delay.

"We have been operating maintenance, removing tapped lines upon discovery. But this is not fast enough—so we mount a bulk of reported illegal connections... There was a significant number of households found tapping into our lines," said Antonio Tan, chief engineer of the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center (TEC).

The TEC, which spearheaded the operations, said in a report that the team cut illegally-tapped lines in four residential areas near major Metro Manila intersections.

Those included a compound of shanties at the corner of Pablo Ocampo Extension (formerly Wo Gan) and Cleto Story Avenue (Boeing Extn) in Makati City, which Ong said the team removed dozens of lumber structures illegally to consume traffic light.

On Jan. 20, the team also cut the illegal electrical connections of households at the corner of C-4 Road and Diego Cera Avenue in Makati, the B-D Road and Sampaguita Street in Manila, Manila, and on E. Rodriguez St. Boulevard corner Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Ong said the illegal connections were discovered during regular maintenance work on 625 traffic lights.

The team says others are expected to be cracked down where a significant surge in power consumption was noted, because we know that the consumption of traffic lights per month is pretty much stable," he told the Inquirer.

Ong said the agency has also begun researching with local governments for proper action on street lights found to be illegally connected to traffic lights at 11 intersections—six in Manila and five in Quezon City.

"We would be coordinating with them to shut the power supply to the street lights would not be cut off. Maybe the farmers who connected these thought it was okay since they were connecting government lines," said Ong.

In July 2005, the MMDA created a task force to look into the unusually power consumption of traffic lights, suspecting that nearby residences had tapped into these power lines.

Ong said the agency will continue its crackdown as the anticipates more "true up" to continue checking other traffic lights in the metropolis.

Smokey Mt. scavengers now waste managers

By Amado Mo. Guerrero
Contributor

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT THE 600A known as Smokey Mountain was a peaceful, almost idyllic fishing village called Kanan as the early 1950s.

One could swim in adjacent Manila Bay and the breezes caused a decent livelihood.

In a few years, however, things changed. The City of Manila's Department of Public Services and factories began dumping their waste here, and soon squatters (both ethnic natives and, and increased in numbers through the years.

Driving mud and, the dumpsite became a mountain of garbage several stories high, a symbol of urban blight, a portrait of the Filipino at scavenger.

A program of the national government to address this garbage problem through diversifying and turning into compost the biodegradable waste ended in failure.

In 1992, a move to relocate some of the families finally ended in a burst of national attention when it was discovered that the site in Barangay Capitol contained mostly big but toxic bomb.

More successful was the housing project of the National Housing Authority, which, by 2000 was able to construct 11 low-rise, low-cost buildings with 2,500 housing units, 528 more units per five more buildings and some 15,500 families.

Smokey Mountain has become, around you believe, Paradise Heights, the official name of the settlement.

The mountain was officially closed during the Ramos administration but it is still there, with its vista washed away. People are forbidden to go atop it but a few still venture there.

"The waste mess must be studied or reprocessed," said Anna Cristina Gutierrez, Philippine representative of the Washington-based *Sustainable Project Management* (SPM), which is implementing a program to rehabilitate Smokey Mountain and convert it into an eco-park.

SPM is assisted by nongovernmental organizations like Mother Earth Philippines and Greenpeace from like Quezon.

The Church is represented by parish priest Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD, who actually got things going again. The City of Manila approved the project in 2004.

"But 18 is an unsatisfactory dumpsite," warned Gutierrez. "It is in danger of becoming another Smokey Mountain."

There are also man-made threats. Although many residents have been organized, some parts of Smokey Mountain are still terrorized, especially at night.

There are a stabbing incident recently in what was considered a safe place in the area.

Despite these challenges, a new spirit pervades Smokey Mountain a.k.a. Paradise Heights.

A materials recovery facility (MRF) system and biogas are set in place, courtesy of the Department of Science & Technology.

"For never are trash lying around," observed Gutierrez. "The people are segregating, and enjoy big water problems."

There is even a contest to discover the cleanest and most ecologically progressive building.

"The next stage is to build markets for their compost," Gutierrez said. "Hence our grassroots investor provided the principal service is paid for."

"They are scavengers no more," she said. "They are recovering recyclable materials. They are waste managers, eco-aides and ecowarriors."

INSTEAD of scavenging for trash, residents of Smokey Mountain, now known as Paradise Heights, recycle and segregate garbage.

Woman cop is indeed one of Manila's Finest

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT WAS A DESTINY SHE WOULD NOT HAVE had her mother wanted for her.

When Senior Insp. Teresita Lim of the Manila Police District (MPD) Acted to become a law enforcer almost three decades ago, she was careful not to reveal her plans to her Chinese father.

"He warned me against dipping my fingers in a man's job," Lim, now chief of the MPD District Investigation and Intelligence Division (DIID) administrative section, told the Inquirer in an interview.

The 48-year-old Lim, who grew up in a Chinese-Filipino community in Quiapo, had considered taking up law, arts and engineering courses in college, but her father chose no good for her.

"He stressed that pursuing was not a lucrative occupation while engineering would be easy," Lim recalled.

Business courses not an option

Despite her exposure as a child to her father's restaurant and shoe store, Lim said she refused to take up commerce which would give her the fastest, edge she needed to help out in the family business.

"Majority of my classmates, who were mostly Chinese, opted to take up business courses," Lim said. "I wanted to do something different, so I decided to become a criminal lawyer."

But shortly after graduating from the Philippine College of Criminology (PCC) in the '70s, Lim said she felt she was destined for another profession.

After unexpectedly passing the Electrical Police Commission eligibility examination there which she took on a whim, her former professor in the PCC asked her to help solve the murder of a Chinese manager of a restaurant in Rizal Park by carrying out investigation.

"The police needed me to take the statements of witnesses who were mostly Chinese," Lim, who is fluent in Mandarin and Hokkien, explained.

Her professor, MPD's Col. Alejandro Estopinal, managed to convince her to pursue her law school plans because after what was to be investigation.

From there on, Lim felt that there was no turning back.

"I had initial apprehensions, but I was sure about my desire to join the police service," she said in an interview with Colonel Estopinal's team, "Am sure

SENIOR Insp. Teresita Lim, of the Manila Police District, shows men call 'Batocabo: Manila's Finest', is not just one tough cop, she's also one of the best.

As things have turned out now, the then spunky 21-year-old made the right decision.

Showing 'em how

Aside from topping the firing test during their police basic training course, Lim also scuttled dispelling doubts that a woman could succeed in a male dominated profession during a military training at Camp Capinpin, Tanay.

While the police trainees were sweating a mountain, Lim noticed a male classmate having a hard time keeping up with them.

Lim decided to help her classmate by tugging at his shirt until they reached a service vehicle intended for the women trainees.

She then jogged behind the vehicle after giving up her space for her fellow trainee, earning admiration from everybody at the camp.

But Lim's biggest challenge was telling her father the truth about the career she had chosen. It was fortunate, she said with a smile, that her mother did it for her.

"My mother suggested that I visit a house where people illegally placed markings after my father complained that he was cheated there," she said with a laugh.

After successfully raiding the gambling den and admonishing her father for playing, Lim did not hear any more complaints or grumbling from him.

"He was just thrilled to realize that I had an important role in the community," the police officer said, grinning.

After receiving her father's blessing, Lim continued down her chosen career path, rising from the ranks over the years, working as a police officer and playing vital part in undercover operations.

Outstanding policewoman

Last December, Lim was recognized as one of the MPD's 10 outstanding policewomen because of her accomplishments as commander of the P. Algue Police Community Precinct.

The police officer was also commended for her role as chief of the DIID Filipino-Chinese Affairs Office (FCAO) based in Binondo, Manila.

"Chinese-Filipino businessmen usually pour complaints to me about filing complaints of the police station because they get scared and intimidated," Lim said, adding that their office was tasked to monitor all complaints involving Chinese-Filipino victims and suspects.

Because she is actually part of the community Lim sees an obvious choice as chief of the office.

"I am only glad to be of service to the community where I grew up in," she said.

Lim added with a smile, "Although he did not really say it, I know my father is proud of his son."

TALES OF THE CITY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006

EZ2 SUERTRES SIX DIGIT

33 24 2 6 7 6 6 0 9 5

Text us your feedback:

6/42 Lucas/Vic Mia

7 10 14 17 22 33

P5,867,078.40

Woman jumps from 15th floor

By Tina G. Santos

A 30-YEAR-OLD BUSINESSWOMAN DIED after she jumped from the 15th floor of the Manila Hotel yesterday morning.

SPO4 Danny Vidad of the Manila Police District Homicide section identified the victim as Concepcion Bagamaspad, of Bagabag City.

The victim was killed instantly because of the injuries she sustained due to her fall, the police said.

Investigation showed that the incident happened at around 8:30 a.m. in Room 1504 of the hotel where the victim, along with two friends, Nelia Pollesco and Concepcion Lee, were staying.

The police said the victim and her companions arrived on Feb. 1 from Mindanao to attend the two-day convention of their group, Inner Wheel Club of the Philippines, at the hotel.

Pollesco and Lee were reportedly prodding the victim to monitor the top floor of their accommodation but Bagamaspad did not want the responsibility, the police added.

As they were talking, Bagamaspad suddenly broke the glass window and jumped.

One of the victim's companions said she tried to hold onto her to stop her but it was too late. The victim reportedly said, "Ayoko na, ayoko na," before she jumped, the police said.

Authorities added that although initial investigation indicated that it was likely a suicide, they will continue the investigation to determine if there was foul play involved.

Canadian building bridges between Christians, Muslims

By Yuri Cuneresas

A CANADIAN LAWYER AND broadcast journalist, he was the last person you would expect to serve as a bridge between Filipino Christians and Muslims.

But Robin Forgeler not only took a two-week break from work to be in Manila, he also enjoyed coming edge technology as a tool for linking up culturally diverse youth from the east points of the archipelago.

A two-day video conference between students in Metro Manila and Mindanao was held at the De La Salle University (DLSU) last last month. Among its proponents was Forgeler, a Vancouver-based lawyer and journalist whose earlier stay in the country in the late '90s has since given him a sense of mission.

"We have been the power of technology to make meetings from mythes that we're not really different from each other," said Forgeler, 37, who congregated "Ugnay Kabataan" along with Roslyn Ancheta, a 2004 Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership and president of the Social Development Foundation.

The conference, held last dec. 10 and 24 at the DLSU-William Shaw Little Theater, was designated to "play down our differences which our leaders and politicians tend to exaggerate," he told the Inquirer.

"When we're talking here is that those differences are lessened and you can stand up to those lies. As Christian you can say that 'hey, I spoke to Muslim today and they're just like me. They are our peers, they don't have tails, they have girlfriends and love basketball, too'," he stressed.

Organizers claim that "Ugnayan"

PETTYMAN

won the first inter-video conferencing...courtesy of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.—was used for the purpose.

Forgeler, who last year also took part in humanitarian projects in rural Mindanao and in the slums of Baseco, Manila, said he chose the country to be the pilot area for this mode of peace-making, which he intends to replicate in other conflict zones around the world like the Middle East.

What he called his "strong emotional attachment to Filipinos" can be traced to his late grandfather Gerald Hugh Atkinson, a British colonel posted in the country during World War II, who went on to befriend Filipino families like the Zobels and Ayalas, as well as the late President Ramon Magsaysay.

Forgeler lived in Manila from 1997 to 1999 as a corporate lawyer for foreign investors and multinationals, for the past few years, however, he has been working as a TV and radio reporter for the Canadian Broadcast Corp.

"This is my home away from home," he smiled. "Filipinos are a very sensitive, generous, sociable, and positive people, but they have been given a bad deal by invading colonists that have exploited their good nature."

In an estimated cost of P200,000, the video linkup was established between the DSLU theater in Manila and the St. Joseph Retreat House in Cotabato City. "Ugnay" gathered some 900 high school students representing 18 schools in Metro Manila, and 23 students and youth leaders representing Muslim and tribal tribes from around Mindanao.

The students enjoyed up to four hours of real-time video chat, with adult panelists guiding the discussion on topics ranging from the day's burning political issues, to religious tolerance, and the armed conflict in Mindanao.

The closing took program turns especially when Muslim students spoke of racial discrimination and bitter evacuations spurred by military operations in their villages, and of Muslims being tagged as "terrorists."

Also among the organizers was another Canadian, Tim Bendzsa, a teacher from the International School Manila.

"It's a strong believe in bringing people together through technology, which is cheaper than sending them on trips to meet," added Forgeler, who personally wrote PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan last July to call his firm to sponsor the video hook-up.

His proposal was endorsed by Mrs. Ruhiza Magsaysay Jr. and the RM Foundation.

The Value of 3PG Corporate Values

by Jenny Alma Santos

ST. PETER

LIFE PLANS + CHAPELS

The key to a long-term success is how well every member of our organization embraces our corporate values. Our values are abbreviated into one meaningful term, SECTEDP (Soul Confidence Excellence, Teamwork, Integrity, Customer Service, Employee Satisfaction and Professionalism).

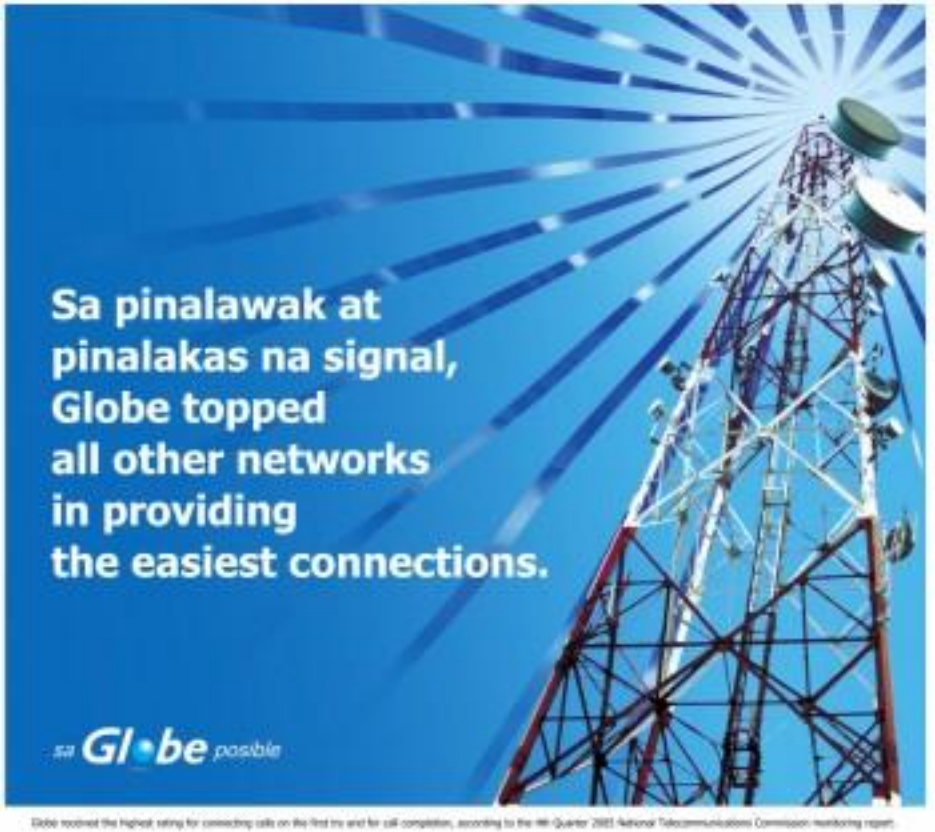
At St. Francisco Pinoy, who embraces these values can make a difference in the world. In the midst of a materialistic and short world, where majority are in state mood of financial relief, it cannot be denied that some or may just take advantage of situations that present a one of temporarily gratification no matter how much the cost. Values formation therefore, may help us take a step back and make our decision to do the right thing. This is why when such a tempting situation presented itself to Rodel Mangubat (St. Peter Memorial Chapels' outsourced maintenance staff), he withstood the temptation and followed our values, making him choose to do the "right thing" over temporary material satisfaction.

It was during the last Christmas season that a caller of one of our terminated families inadvertently left his bag at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels. Fortunately, there was a Rodel Mangubat around to spend time bag – from what was read body a name found bag. Rodel, coming from a simple family that makes ends meet, may have had several thoughts in his mind when he found the bag. But faithful to our corporate values, he immediately endorsed it to the SPMC office via integrity to one of our most treasured values.

To the surprise of our rodel who later came back looking for the bag, Mr. Salvador was not happy to see his belongings intact. He was so relieved that he rewarded Rodel with a token. While Rodel was glad he have received the token, he was more satisfied with the reward of knowing that he can look his children in the eye and relate such a simple but heroic deed again and again with dignity and integrity.

It is with honor and pride that we recognize the True St. Peterian Pinoy in Rodel Mangubat – Galing St. Peterian! We are proud that you are part of our St. Peter family.

###



Globe received the highest rating for connecting calls on the first try and for call completion, according to the 4th Quarter 2005 National Telecommunications Commission monitoring report.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A 33

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail to sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres

FOLLOW UP: presenter Lanaires Alfares up on a set shot by sister Jenibe in their semifinal match against Stella Dumrique and Jessy Dumrique during the first leg of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark, Pampanga. The Lanaires sisters advance to the finals.

Kings, Bulls dispute 2nd finals berth

GAME 3 TODAY (Ahanta Gymnasium)

3:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

Game 1—Ginebra 2nd half, 42–38 (C)

Game 2—Red Bull 2 Ginebra, 83–82

Game 3—Red Bull 2 Ginebra, 83–82

Game 4—Red Bull 2 Ginebra, 83–82

Game 5—Ginebra 2 Red Bull, 92–82

Game 6—Ginebra 2 Red Bull, 83–77

MAHARAJAH GINEBRA HAS PROVEN it thrives in adversity.

Not much left else to fuel Bull Hardies coach Yeng Guiao, who insists his team has what it takes to handle it all despite blowing a two-game advantage in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

The Kings and the Bulls collide in Game 3 of their semifinal duel today at the Ahanta Gymnasium with the winner moving up against Purefoods Chunkee in the San Miguel Coffee PBA Hotta Conference Finals.

"You know what your team can do and know that your opponents, and Ginebra will have to [Kenneth] Duremdes and [Jayjay] Helterbrand," said Guiao, who led a 3-1 series lead.

Ginebra coach Glenn Capacio says also adopts the same line of thinking following the Kings' astonishing reversion in Games 5 and 6.

"I don't really believe in momentum. But one thing's for sure, the character of the team always comes out when our backs are against the wall," said Tanquingcen, who boasts a 5-1 record in do-or-die games on a head coach.

History is also on Ginebra's side.

It is the only team in the league to close back from a 1-3 deficit to win a title series. The Kings did the trick at the expense of Swift in the 1991 First Conference championship.

Since then Ginebra has all 17 teams which took 2-1 leads in a best-of-seven series went on to win the championship. Prior to that 1991 exploit, no team down 1-3 has ever forced a Game 7.

Chris Porter should again at least duplicate his 24-point, 10-rebound effort in Game 6 and could win ongoing MVP Eric Menk when him up to the point to boost the Kings' chances.

Menk scored at least 20 points in games that Ginebra won (Games 1, 3 and 6) while averaging 7.5 points in Games 2, 4 and 5.

The Bulls are hoping to close more points from Jenisa Perez and Lendy Tagaslo. *Jane Meneses*

Banal resigns; Pals eye Pumaren, Reyes

By Jane Meneses

A DAY AFTER ACCEPTING JOEL Banal's resignation, Talk 'N Text is choosing between two multi-titled coaches capable of shaking the country's tense in the Philippine Basketball Association.

A well-entrenched team source said Talk 'N Text assistant coach Dennis Pumaren and former Coca-Cola and present national team coach Chot Reyes are the top candidates to succeed Banal.

"It's [Banal] has made the executive sacrifice by offering his resignation," said Talk 'N Text governor Nicky Vargas. "We are now seriously looking at two candidates who will take over the post vacated by Banal."

Talk 'N Text management had a chat with the players Thursday before Banal and his deputies submitted an accomplishment report the next day.

Under Banal, the Phone Pals captured the 2003 All-Filipino Cup crown, had two runner-up finishes and settled for third twice.

The Phone Pals got booboed out by the 16th-11 Express in the quarterfinals of the ongoing PBA Hotta Conference, prompting management to review the team's performance.

"I don't really believe in momentum. But one thing's for sure, the character of the team always comes out when our backs are against the wall," said Tanquingcen, who boasts a 5-1 record in do-or-die games on a head coach.

History is also on Ginebra's side.

It is the only team in the league to close back from a 1-3 deficit to win a title series. The Kings did the trick at the expense of Swift in the 1991 First Conference championship.

Since then Ginebra has all 17 teams which took 2-1 leads in a best-of-seven series went on to win the championship. Prior to that 1991 exploit, no team down 1-3 has ever forced a Game 7.

Chris Porter should again at least duplicate his 24-point, 10-rebound effort in Game 6 and could win ongoing MVP Eric Menk when him up to the point to boost the Kings' chances.

Menk scored at least 20 points in games that Ginebra won (Games 1, 3 and 6) while averaging 7.5 points in Games 2, 4 and 5.

The Bulls are hoping to close more points from Jenisa Perez and Lendy Tagaslo. *Jane Meneses*

Rain or Shine seeks 2-0 lead

GAME 2 TODAY (San Mateo Dome)

2:30 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Sta. Lucia (Finals)

CLOSING TO ITS SECOND UNTAMED END-OFF for Rain or Shine.

And coach Caloy Garcia hopes the game plan will continue to work when his Elasto Painters shoot for a 2-0 advantage versus the Magnolia Pilsmark in Game 2 of their PBA Fiesta Conference playoffs series today at the San Andres Gym.

"Our role players know that anybody can be a hero in the team," said Garcia. "Since the week, I've been using most of my second strikers because our first stringers have also been tired."

Before the Painters gun for their ninth straight win at 2:30 p.m., the league will hold its Achievement Awards at 2:00 with the top players of the single conference vying for individual honors.

The Painters' veterans Rommel Adducul and Jaybee Sumalinog lead the race for the Most Valuable Player plum, but teammate Jay-R Reyes and the imposing Filipino duo of Arwind Santos and Kelly Williams are also among candidates for the coveted award.

"We have to some our strong bottom Williams and Santos are hard to stop, they're playing so well," coach Garcia.

Rising forward Jaypee Cabana doubled Game 1 for Rain or Shine last Thursday.

Cabana, a La Salle standout and son of boxing ex-pro Sonny Cabana, scaled a career-high 16 points in 18 minutes.

It was also Cabana who fired the game-tying three-pointer with 36.8 seconds left that forced the extra period.

Cabana finished with 29 points off the bench, while point guard Eugene Tan contributed 11.

But Magnolia reserve Ney Bansil remains positive that his team can score an equalizer in the best-of-five series.

"There should be no frustration," said Bansil. "We have to forget what happened in Game 1 and move on to a higher level. That's the only way we can beat a team as strong as Rain or Shine." *Antonio M. Boyo*

National triathlon up today

Grit a YOUNG GUN-hopes pull off an upset the first

A promising crop of junior triathletes are expected to grind the asphalt when the National Triathlon Championship flies off today at Lakeshore in Mendez, Pampanga.

Sandra Arnaiz, silver medalist in the second Southeast Asian Games, and national record holder Jed delos remain the top contender in the women's division of the sprint, 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run event.

But 17-year-old Miguel Loren and Leo Gabriel Enright, 15, are given equal chances of toppling the favorites.

Another 17-year-old, Mikki Qethalo of De La Salle University is also one of the strongcharts in the men's division along with SEAG veteran Fred Embalzado and Jhon Gonzales.

Aside from the cash prizes, the top finishers will also secure the ticket to the Asian Triathlon Championship in China and to the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Also competing in the standard and sprint distance races are senior age group champion Josie Serrano and JAAP swimming champion Josephine Pelayo. *Jasmine N. Reyes*

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.

Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia

AIA

Trucks & Equipment

4-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

FEB. 22, 23, 24 & 25, 2006

(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

Sale Starts at 9:00 a.m.

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST AUCTION OF THE YEAR!

Inspection Dates:

Feb. 18, 19, 20 & 21

(Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday)

THE BEST OF JAPAN: DIRECT TO THE FILIPINO HANDS!

http://www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com

AUCTION STYLE - PARADE

Sa Globe, 'di mahal magmahal

dahil sa super sulit na phonekit deals.

NOKIA 3220

GLOBE PREPAID PHONEKIT

P5,990

NOKIA 1110

GLOBE PREPAID PHONEKIT

P3,790

NOKIA 1100

GLOBE PREPAID PHONEKIT

P2,990

NOKIA

Buy a phonekit now and get a FREE P100 McDonald's gift certificate.*

Plus, get weekly tones, logos, wallpapers & other sample downloads for FREE! Just text FREE to 2391

Simulan na ang mahabang kuftan!

FOR POSTPAID & PREPAID SUBSCRIBERS

P0.10 PER SECOND

Piyso sandaan kada segundo

walang patid na tawagan at

sa Globe posible

Piata Cup tomorrow at Sta. Elena

TICKETS TO HONOLULU CLOT MAKERS will be raffled off in the Bobcat Philippine 2006 Agents Team Association (Pata) Golf Cup tomorrow at Sta. Elena Golf Club in Laguna. LPC Yellow Pages and Transnational Diesel Philippines are presenting the event making a Guam, APV crossings at Kuwait Jobs Makati and Pioneer Insurance as a future one pass.

accordingly Pata Golf Cup awards chair Frank Klaus. Major sponsors are Amadeus, Golden PAL, Hutchison Global, Lufthansa, Kuhl, Philippine Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, Raffles Boracay and Raffles Hotels, JAL, Continental Airlines, Sia Air, Malaysian Airlines, China Airlines, Royal Brunei, Singapore Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Thai Airways and Air Macau.

Alabang Mango Tee finale

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB WRAPS UP THE 22nd edition of the Mango Tee invitational golf tournament today with many scenic fighting it out for supremacy in various divisions.

Two scenic, Antonio Perajon-Lorenzo Montano and Ray Cenzon-Dondi Amalpuenzo, have the overall lead in the 150 points after the completion of Friday's round with the rest of the teams set to play their final 18 holes tomorrow.

Perajon and Montano followed up their 36 in Round 1 with a 73 to emerge the leader in Class B while Cenzo-Amalpuenzo also had the same scores to draw the race for Class A in the scenery-to-presented by Jose Cuenco and Lorenzo Montano.

Nearly P2.2 million in prizes, topped by a Toyota golf cart worth P270,000, will be given away.

Del Monte, Ka Tino and more

SPECTATOR

Al S. Hendrix

MANOLO POR-NIS, Bulakeño—I am right here in Centurion Compound, where vintage, typical American bungalows recently built, to the so-called Roaring Twenties that the lush years of the Del Monte Golf Club. Here these semi-looking bungalows survived the ravages of time is the kind of stuff fit for "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

The place is called Governors' because this used to be planted to thousands of bamboo (cawayan).

DK, Don in the round for a bit of history. I always had high marks (about) in history while I was involved...but loved this subject.

Cawayan-puno's bamboos are sparse, replaced by towering pine trees on the Del Monte Golf Club, a pre-TJ championship layout measuring 7,070 yards that I once called "The Golf Jewel of Mindanao."

The Southern Ladies Open had concluded its 4-day 54-straight tournament here yesterday and the rest is history that included the event's mastercard, NCAP director Alice Andrada, had every reason to be ecstatic over there-four-day may-trade that surpassed's lowbugo-bolos bolero and villas (a.k.a. bungalows). These cabanas were home to the American pioneers of Del Monte which, up to now, still shape our thousands of sweet pineapples around the world almost daily. Credit goes chiefly now to the foreman Ka Gin, hope everything flies with you!). They bought Del Monte some years back and continued nurturing a well-loved Philippine tradition.

The 18 of the 36-hole Del Monte Golf Course Compound is occupied by the golf course and the remaining 20 hectares is mainly home to nearly 4,000 bancung areas. The link greenery is the comfy height, but evidently not mandatory of Cawayan's is perfect habitat for the most. Then Del Monte is famous for its sweet local sweetheart, the sweet-as-honey Sen. New York-ni, Enid Watsonman, stroke-crazy nurse they are every inner than the world-famed Angat land. Del Monte's pineapples, grown at nearby Camp Phillips, surely help make the beef are... let us spoof-check of the cows' meals are prepared with pineapple pulp and Nine drafts where the nectar with the bikini. Only this.

Nearly 200 homes also gone in the sprawling pantambuk surrounding the golf course. These homes are used to rein in the men by trained hands that recognize the tawhose of Bulakenos, darkly copied from American cowboys we only see nearly in the Movie Channel.

Cawayan-puno is also famous for an aligned of this zone, named after the first mayor (Manolo Fortich) of what was then known as Tankulan (Sangkargan)—so named because the place was then a rich repository of "hangking," which is the Philippine equivalent of the Tahitian.

This is the first town of Bukidnon east, ing from Cagayan de Oro City. It sits atop a hill overlooking the scenic Macabalar Bay off the Pacific coast. I love watching the blue-green waves from here.

Jesus Michel Crawford, the second president of Del Monte, built the Del Monte Golf course's that rate links in 1918. In 1974, the course was designed by the legendary Tim Tucker was encouraged by President Marcos.

Tagaz, the seven-time Philippine Open champion who turns 55 on April 6, lives in a mansion because just in hours of the golf course in the Aloha-Hawaiian.

My home town friends for Ka Tino, who to me is the greatest Filipino golfer ever, who hit all the nine of his home runs in his tennis ago. He bumped his left arm to the ball and suffered an ugly gash on his forehead that needed, according to his son, Norman, seven stitches to close. After his left arm-shot bone per-se-a-cast, he banged it against the hospital's windowsill, completing it in six hours.

Ka Inno put to a rest arms and his-ear of the hospital rooms. Thank God, he is recovering fine," said Norman, who drove most of the driving after his father, especially were shot four months ago.

Governors' and Del Monte, History-wise, they will be in my mind always, notwithstanding that Tino Right—and you, include Del Monte's other great producer in or another golfer, Frankie Minoza—occupies the top spot once more.

Here's cheering for Tino, the only Filipino golfer who had shaken hands with a sitting American president (Ike Eisenhower in 1956 in Washington DC) gets well soon. My first putter came from him.

+++

PATRIDGE. Thank you to Bella Quimpo, the very amiable Del Monte Golf Club general manager, and her staff, Bene Ignacio and Miss Lea Rubio. This piece materialized because of them.

+++

Comments: e-mail: alp@skyinfo.net

Shin dominates Southern Ladies

RACING PAGE 2

ETTIP CHOICE

SUBIC BAY—CENTRAL LUZON GOLF hotties doused out with a three-under-par 69 for 17 points and ran away with the 42nd Southern Ladies Open Golf Championship yesterday at the Del Monte Golf Club in Manolo Fortich here.

The 14-year-old, who has amassed the country for the last six months to polish her game on the same course, signed for a third straight sub-70 round and pulled away from former champion Lara Roberts, who notched a 73 and 13 points.

Shin tallied 175 points for 54 holes under the 36-hole scoring system, her 14-point victory was one of the most lopsided in the history of the event organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Asunsol scored 90-on Friday to establish Shin to weight out of a five-round tie with Roberts, whose 73 yesterday was matched by Bali Sang-hyun for a third place finish at 161 points.

The event was sponsored by Honma Golf, DHL Worldwide Express, WWW Express, Copen Group and Isuzu Philippines Inc., Jennifer and hosted by the Philippine Sports Commission, DPC Yellow Pages, Globe and Sky Cruiseliner Jamela of Cagayan de Oro.

Aileen Shin the look fourth place with a 158 after carded straight 73 while jeopardy Lynn Rodriguez tallied with a two-under par 70 nearly 36 points to finish in joint fifth with Jenel Ira Eva Militino, who shot 72, with 139 totals.

Rounding up the top 10 finishers were Crystal Supreal (D) (157), Ana de Guzman, the 2005 champion (156), Elaiza Ikeda (D) (155) and veteran intermediate Anya Bautista (D) (153).

Gilda Mediavillanas took the Class A crown with a 12° after a 76 beating Claudine Garcia (85-124) and Heather Lorenzo (86-139), while Lyn Ebreo shot 76 points to pocket the Class B title with a 186.

Indray Tan (81) and Rose Asuncion finished second and third with 96 and 98 points, respectively.

Mirela Ramirez climbed the Class C throne with a 110 after a 42. Milina Tan carded a second straight 26 to take the Class D title with a 75.

Race track up in Clark

A NEW RACE TRACK WILL RISE in the Clark Special Economic Zone to pave the way for the Philippines' hosting of international motorsports events. Clark Development Corp., headed by president and CEO Antonio Ng and fellow Home Corp. president Johnny Tan, signed a contract last Jan. 31 for the establishment of an international standard race track to be known as the Clark International Speedway. The Speedway will cater to karting, drag racing, motorcycle racing and other special events. The 1.6-hectare track will be located along Gil Puyat Avenue near the Mabalacat Gate.

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply and delivery of Book Bags for High School Students

Date: January 27, 2006
Late No.: 06-0001
Project: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
ITB No.: SEDIP-SHOP-2006

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Book Bags for High School Students.

2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites eligible Suppliers to submit their Bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

2.1 Lot 1: Book Bags for Zone 1: 83,647 pieces
2.2 Lot 2: Book Bags for Zone 2: 34,340 pieces
2.3 Lot 3: Book Bags for Zone 3: 89,099 pieces
2.4 Lot 4: Book Bags for Zone 4: 206,017 pieces

3. International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Guidelines for Procurement and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph.

5. The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested suppliers upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the DepED BAC Secretariat at the address given below.

6. Bids must be delivered to Rabanquin Inc. Building, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines on or before 10:00 a.m. on March 2, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address, time and date.

7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on February 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the given address. Attendance is optional.

8. The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, declare any bidding irregular at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or to obligate to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for such action. The DepED reserves the right to waive any minor conformity in any bid.

9. The DepED will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

(Sgd.) APTY. ISABELITA MOSCOSO, JR. MONTEÑA
Assistant Secretary and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Bicol Medical Center now invites prospective bidders to participate in the following projects:

Repair/Restoration of Roofing	January 30, 2006 to March 3, 2006
Fire Protection	February 06, 2006 to March 10, 2006
Repair of Elevator	January 30, 2006 to March 3, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Medical Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Medicines	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Reagents	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Dialysis Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Radiology Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceuticals	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Janitorial Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gasoline, Oil and Lubricants	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Food Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Linen	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Uniforms	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laundry Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Garbage Bags	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gloves	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gauze	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Cotton	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Bandages	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Surgical Supplies	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Radiology Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Dialysis Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceutical Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Office Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Janitorial Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gasoline, Oil and Lubricants Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Food Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Linen Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Uniforms Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laundry Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Garbage Bags Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gloves Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gauze Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Cotton Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Bandages Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Surgical Supplies Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Radiology Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Dialysis Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceutical Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Office Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Janitorial Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gasoline, Oil and Lubricants Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Food Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Linen Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Uniforms Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laundry Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Garbage Bags Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gloves Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gauze Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Cotton Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Bandages Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Surgical Supplies Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Radiology Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Dialysis Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Pharmaceutical Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Office Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Janitorial Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gasoline, Oil and Lubricants Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Food Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Linen Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Uniforms Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Laundry Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Garbage Bags Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gloves Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Gauze Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Cotton Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Bandages Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006
Supply and Delivery of Surgical Supplies Equipment Equipment Equipment	January 30, 2006 to March 1, 2006

Contact Address: BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telefax No.: (054) 473-7574 / (054) 473-4408
E-mail Address: bmc_bac@yahoo.com
Telefax: (054) 473-7574 / (054) 473-7577
Contact Person: MAGNO TIU Head, BAC (0917) 812-7744 / (054) 811-2611
MARIA TERESA A. AGRA, MPA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(Sgd.) MAGS. ITA E. AGARA, MPA
BAC Chairman

CASELCO

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAMARINES SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CASELCO) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and submit bids for the following:

1. 4750- Kelvin and Distribution Transformers for the Single Dwell System Loss Reduction Program of the cooperative.

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

a. Company Profile
b. Business Registration
c. Business Permit
d. Mayor's Permit
e. BIR Certificate of Registration
f. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
g. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable

2. Must be able to pay P3,000.00 for the pertinent bidding only and not refundable for the documents during the pre-bid conference.

CASELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bid(s) and waive any defects therein, accept or consider bids deemed most advantageous to the cooperative and disqualify or reject any bid(s) for purpose of bidder that may be found to be the disadvantage of the cooperative or any cause of suspension that an award is not in the best interest of the cooperative.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all interested bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements - February 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. YONGSELLAO
General Manager

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagbubukid
PHILIPPINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regional Agricultural Fishery Council
Regional Fisheries Development Center
Lungsod Quezon

Reference No.: PFDA-RFDC-RAFC-FIDP-2006-001
February 3, 2006
PROJECT/PROGRAM NAME

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the supply of 3,200 metric tons (+/- 1%) of Skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis) and Yellowfin Tuna (Thunnus albacares) fish, which will withstand temperature of minus 18 deg. centigrade approximately for 18 mos. more from the Cold Room for Emergency Purposes.

Interested bidders must submit their license to operate from any government issuing agency as food manufacturer, food distributor, importer or trader.

Bid documents are available for NAFC/DBM Secretariat and payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The bidder price is Php 18,500.00/MT C & F.

Fully-completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 2006 at the NAFC Executive Conference Room. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened. Opening of bids will be at 9:15 a.m.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Pio Vonic or Ms. Peachy Agustin at tel. nos. 929-8261 and 929-8262.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BERNIE B. FONDEVILLA
Executive Director

Do you know how many helicopters under Maj. Charles Hotchkiss attacked Malacañang on Feb. 24, 1986?

EDSA 20 A PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

FEBRUARY 20, MONDAY 8:30 P.M. ABC

Gorres decisions foe in Vegas

TOP-RANKED OPBF SUPER FLYWEIGHT Z "The Dream" Gorres outclassed Jose Alfredo Tinoco of Mexico with a unanimous decision yesterday in their bout that highlighted Friday Nite Fights at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Judges Bill Graham and Dennis Hurd both gave it a 99-91, while the third judge, Dave Moretti, had it 99-90, all for Gorres, who had Manny Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach, Edito Villamor and Tony Marvin in his corner during the 10-round fight.

American referee Jay Nady disfavored a point off Tinoco for repeatedly holding on to Gorres, who held off the onrushing Mexican with effective counterpunching.

Up next for the southpaw Gorres, now 23-1-1 with 12 stoppages, is a crack at the OPBF title against ex-champ Pharapetch Chuwatana on March 16 at the Mandalay Bay Sport and Cultural Complex.

In the chief support, Czar Amonsot shed out a hard-earned unanimous verdict over a brither Cristian Fuerte of Mexico in their 8-round duel. Amonsot improved to 14-1-1 with 10 KOs. Sabres L. Lagumbay, assistant

Enso Tour

ENSO Paste is leaving around each of this month for a worldwide tournament of two Formula teams in their joint. Shiba, Europe, across the Atlantic U. Cole will be in Sebring, Florida, in the Rolex Sedge NT 3000 National Series; Ontario, Canada; Pro Motorsport California Dunlop 4 Hour Germany; Motor 13 in Monza, Italy and Motor 13 in Manila, the Motor manager Tonio Paste will be traveling with Enso. International sponsors may receive inquiries through the Philippine Formula motorsport Foundation, Inc. e-mail @cultyhoo-tonio@tidytel.net also Tonio Paste.

FIM-UAM

POLIRIO Princess City will again play host to round 2 of the 2006 FIM UAM Asia Pacific Motocross Championship on March 19. An estimated 20,000 spectators are tested each of the first two editions of the event also held in the popular tourist destination in 2004 and 2005. Mayor Edward Hagedorn has tentatively scheduled the motocross Agustin Racuno is to oversee the preparations being coordinated with MMSEA, the national sporting association for motocross. MMSEA managing director Stephen Cauton, president Romeo Filart also vice president Arthur Velasco and the Interwood for the competitions work which will cover roadwork preparation, safety, security as well as transportation and accommodation for participants and guests.

PCAP tilt

[illegible] tomorrow at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum via the third leg of the Philippine Cricketers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 1-stock derby events. Main battles in D-Meg Swiftpro Asia Pacific Investment submit entries from 2-9 p.m. today. Contact Bill [illegible] at 890-6471. The derby will started 1 p.m. with 60 lights average.

Open format

THE LUZON AMATEUR Gymnastics Association (LUZAA) sanctioned LUZAA, DSWA, GMG, NCAA, IBC, Ray Ile, Ionigia and Taylor tender the maiden issue of the Philippines Intercollegiate Cup 2006 to the [illegible] of elite gymnastics [illegible] and [illegible] derby series set for 14, 15 and 21 at the Ateneda Coliseum. Dean Gilbert Sanchez Meg Derby Ave are the sponsors. A guaranteed prize of P1,000 is at stake. Entry fee is P1,000. Call 896-7888 and 929-5072 for more details.

Citations

A 4WD foreign artillery officials have lauded MMP (National Artillery Association of the Philippines) president's contract to 5 Amateur and secretary general Lipsuit Dhandang for a job well done in the artillery competition of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games held last year. The [illegible]—Army of August and Major Ric Hernandez and [illegible] Malaysia, Judge Corporal [illegible] Sergeant [illegible] Mitsu of Cuba and technical delegate Sergeant Kawamura of Thailand—attributed the success of the meet to the efforts of Guerrero and Dhandang in their reports.

THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOLMATES, COACHES, ATHLETIC MODERATORS, FRIENDS and

TOBY'S

WILL BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.

Sa Globe, 'di mahal magmahal

dahil sa mas pinababang call rates patungong Kuwait.

Call Kuwait with Globe IDD Tipid rates US$0.20/min.

Dial 10800 (country code) (area code) (phone no.)

Also available for calls to Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and US.

*Only rate applies to Postpaid & Prepaid.

walang patid na tawanan!®

sa Globe posible

Toronto trades with, and beats, New York

TORONTO—CHRIS BOSH scored 29 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the struggling New York Knicks, 104-90, hours after the NBA teams completed a trade on Friday.

Before the game, Toronto acquired Jerry Stackhouse from New York for Antonio Davis, a first-round draft pick and cash.

"We have some deficiencies that hopefully Jerry will help alleviate," Knicks coach Larry Brown said. "I think he'll take a lot of pressure off the perimeter people and make the big guys bigger."

Bosh and Davis did not play Friday. Brown thought it would be unfair to throw those two rookie newcomers by Bosh star on New York's bench wearing a suit—Davis stayed at the hotel.

"We can still play, he can go out there and put up numbers with the best of them," said New York's Eddy Curry. "The manner he has been active within our system, the better it's going to be for us."

Morris Peterson added 21 points for the Raptors, who have won three straight.

In other games, Atlanta topped Orlando, 96-90; the LA Clippers overturned Boston, 98-81; Charlotte shocked the LA Lakers, 112-102; Denver skinned Philadelphia, 97-89; Houston crushed Seattle, 100-77; Utah knocked Sacramento, 88-79 and Portland topped Minnesota, 89-88.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Jones scored a career-high 21 points to help Char lotte sweep to Four, close record, 13-game losing streak with a shocker over Los Angeles. AP

NBA on TV
SOAS: 8:00/8:30—9 a.m.—Memphis vs. Milwaukee (taped at 7 p.m.)
SPNA—11 a.m.—Memphis vs. Minnesota
9 a.m.—Detroit vs. Indiana

Super Bowl tickets rare

DETROIT—PLANES ABOUT THE ONLY ONES with runway palms and services stewardess as Super Bowl XL approaches.

For diehard fans, the ones who have come to Detroit with a medical crash and no tickets, anxiety will start hitting them the fourth and goal.

Which can you buy inkets if you don't already have them?

Scalpers are always an option if you're willing to pull out hundreds or even thousands in cash in front of a stranger for a ticket that may or may not be genuine.

One woman recently was charged with selling fake $925,000 in fake tickets for Sunday's game. As usual, authorities are cautioning fans to consider the source before they hand over their money.

Even so, the stranger on the street is the usual source for Aaron Dobbert of Anaheim, California, who has been to 12 Super Bowls.

It is a tradition that began in 1991 for this Rolling Hills fan. He wants to all four games this fall—played for the 1990s and hops on going east year after that.

"We have to be careful," said Dobbert. AP/TSR

Hingis surprises Sharapova

TOKYO—FORMER WORLD NO. 1 MARTINA Hingis spent defending champion and top-seeded Maria Sharapova on Saturday to advance to the finals of the Dor Pearl Cup Open.

Hingis, who entered the tournament as a wild card, rebounded from a first-set loss to cruise to a 6-3, 5-1 win over Sharapova at Tokyo's Metropolitan Gymnasium that took just one hour and 6 minutes.

"It feels good to be in the finals once again," said Hingis. "I never thought I would make it this far."

With a 4-3 lead in the first set, Hingis broke Sharapova to go up 5-3 when her return hit the net and fell in on Sharapova's side. She then held serve to take the opening set. AP

Mendoza rules Malarayat

LIPA CITY—MARK MENDOZA and Pedro Gimenez two rarer with low gross and low net line-on, respectively, in the recent eighth Chairman's Cup of On Hours Malarayat here.

Mendoza, the Summerhouse assistant transportation and communications manager, shot a gross 70 on the Malarayat and Makiki rides for a net 64 and top honors in the 18-hole event held in honor of Malarayat chair Arch. Antonio Sevilla.

Gimenez, also a new generation member of the Alabang Country Club, played with a handicap of 22 and signed for a net 58 under par 62 after shooting a gross 84 also over the same rides.

The tainted team outside the previous high of the event as a total of 246 players teed off with proceeds going to the scholarship fund fund-ha gee ng for Batangas province students and employees of Malarayat.

Donald Rodrigo and Arnel Sanchez were low gross and net Division 1 champions after a 67 and 64, respectively, with Rep. Danilo Suarez shooting an 85 for a net 67 for the Division 2 low gross trophy.

Elder Tan shot an 87 for a net 69 and Lawyer Rodolfo Salazar Jr. an 89 for a net 69 to cop Division III honors with Princess Reighold rallying 36 to win ladies' Division I low gross honors.

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03
Series of 2006

Subject: Enforcement of Regulation or the Implementation of the NEPP on Motor Vehicles under the Revised Chemical Control Order (RCCO) for Motor Vehicle Inspection Guidance (VIG) (DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-36, Series of 2004).

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 8749 (Clean Air Act), Executive Order No. 192 (Reorganization Act of 1987), Republic Act No. 9367 (The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999), Presidential Decree No. 1151 (Philippine Environmental Policy), Executive Order No. 279 (Adopting the National Program on Sustainable Development Strategy), Executive Order No. 15 dated 30 March 1992 of the Senate of the Philippines ratifying the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and Republic Act No. 8800 dated March 19, 2001 of the Senate of the Philippines ratifying Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Chemical Control Order for Ozone Depleting Substances (CCO), DENR Administrative Order No. 2000-19 and DAO 2002-22 series of 2002 (Implementation of Regulations) dated 28 April 2000 seek to strengthen the legal infrastructure to support the implementation of the Philippine National NOX Phase-out, the following Administrative Order is hereby issued to implement the Revised Chemical Control Order (DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-36, series of 2004).

Section 1 - Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the state to regulate, control, restrict or prohibit the import, export, use, manufacture, distribution, storage, possession and sale of Ozone-Depleting Substances to protect or minimize their risks and hazards to the atmospheric ozone, public health and the environment.

Section 2 - Coverage

This Joint Administrative Order covers sales and licensure of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) and the Department of Transportation and Communications-Land Transportation Office (DOTC-LTO) in the implementation of the DAO 2004-36 known as the Revised Chemical Control Order for Ozone Depleting Substances and particular emphasis on the pertinent provisions of sections 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 thereof in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement dated 29 April 1994 (particularly Appendix I, III paragraph 1 and 2, and VI, thereof).

Section 3 - Definition of Terms

Unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter, the following terms are defined as follows:

Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) - shall mean Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), Halons, Carbon Tetrachloride (CCl4), Methyl Chloroform (CH3CCl3), Methyl Bromide (CH3Br), Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs), Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), Bromochloromethane (CH2BrCl) and other substances that deplete the ozone layer as may be designated by the Montreal Protocol Parties.

Refrigerant Recovery - the process of removing refrigerant from certain vessels and storing it in an external container without necessarily testing or processing it in any way.

Refrigerant Recycling - the reduction of contaminants in refrigerant gas by separating oil, removing moisture, and using single or multiple passes through devices, such as replaceable core filter-driers, which reduce moisture, acidity, and particulate matter. This term usually applies to procedures implemented at the field job site or at a local service facility.

Refrigerant Reclamation - the reprocessing of refrigerant to new product specifications. This usually requires chemical analysis of a refrigerant sample after it has undergone recycling.

Refrigerant Recharging - the process of adding refrigerant to a system and subsequently testing for system performance and refrigerant charge.

Refrigerant Retrofitting - the process of removing CFC refrigerant from a system and replacing it with a non-CFC refrigerant.

Refrigerant Leak Repair - the repair of leaks in refrigerant containing equipment.

Refrigerant Leak Detection - the detection of leaks in refrigerant containing equipment.

Refrigerant Evacuation - the removal of refrigerant from a system to a specified vacuum.

Refrigerant Charging - the addition of refrigerant to a system.

Refrigerant Purity - the degree to which a refrigerant is free from contaminants.

Refrigerant Contamination - the presence of unwanted substances in refrigerant.

Refrigerant Analysis - the determination of the purity of a refrigerant sample.

Refrigerant Identification - the determination of the composition of a refrigerant sample.

Refrigerant Leak Rate - the rate at which refrigerant escapes from a leak in a system.

Refrigerant Charge - the amount of refrigerant required by a system.

Refrigerant Recovery Equipment - equipment capable of removing refrigerant from a system and storing it in an external container without necessarily testing or processing it in any way.

Refrigerant Recycling Equipment - equipment capable of removing refrigerant from a system, reducing the contaminants in the refrigerant, and returning the refrigerant to the system.

Refrigerant Reclamation Equipment - equipment capable of removing refrigerant from a system and reprocessing it to new product specifications.

Refrigerant Recharging Equipment - equipment capable of adding refrigerant to a system and subsequently testing for system performance and refrigerant charge.

Refrigerant Retrofitting Equipment - equipment capable of removing CFC refrigerant from a system and replacing it with a non-CFC refrigerant.

Refrigerant Leak Repair Equipment - equipment capable of repairing leaks in refrigerant containing equipment.

Refrigerant Leak Detection Equipment - equipment capable of detecting leaks in refrigerant containing equipment.

Refrigerant Evacuation Equipment - equipment capable of removing refrigerant from a system to a specified vacuum.

Refrigerant Charging Equipment - equipment capable of adding refrigerant to a system.

Refrigerant Purity Equipment - equipment capable of determining the purity of a refrigerant sample.

Refrigerant Identification Equipment - equipment capable of determining the composition of a refrigerant sample.

Refrigerant Leak Rate Equipment - equipment capable of determining the rate at which refrigerant escapes from a leak in a system.

Refrigerant Charge Equipment - equipment capable of determining the amount of refrigerant required by a system.

Section 4 - Prohibited Acts

Among the acts prohibited by the Revised Chemical Control Orders as enumerated in Section 11 thereof are sale and commission and the use of CFCs in Motor Vehicle Air Conditioning Systems (MVACS) and in motor vehicle manufactured and/or initially registered from 1994 onwards, and starting 2014 in all motor vehicles.

Section 5 - Implementation of Restrictions

5.1 The DENR-EMB shall be the lead agency that shall implement the restrictions provided for under Section 4 hereof. The DENR-EMB and the DOLE-TESDA shall render support to the DOTC-LTO in the manner herein provided.

5.2 In the implementation of the restrictions as herein stated, the EMB-RLA/TO shall undertake the following activities and functions:

(a) Promote starting January 2006 the removal of registration of all vehicles manufactured and/or initially registered from January 1, 1996 inclusive if they have MVACS that use CFC;

(b) Require all motor vehicles or their Motors for Conditioning (MAC) Systems prior to registration, in accordance with the Manual for Motor Vehicle Inspection and Roadworthiness Certification (MVIRC);

(c) Recognize all motor vehicles undergo/undergoing/undergone inspection at MVCs in the different areas concerning its motor vehicles and appointed MAC servicing and refrigerant facility;

(d) Designate and maintain booths that will conduct random inspection at MVCs in the different areas concerning its motor vehicles and appointed MAC servicing and refrigerant facility;

(e) Maintain records and data on refrigerant type of all motor vehicles inspected and provide such information to DENR-EMB on quarter;

(f) Update the DENR-EMB annually on the status of CFC usage in MACs;

(g) Conduct public awareness campaign in coordination with the DENR-EMB, concerning laws, rules and regulations, as well as policy statements on MAC systems;

(h) Organize trainings of MAC inspection teams in accordance with DENR-EMB. The training shall be conducted by DENR-EMB and DOLE-TESDA;

(i) Impose and collect all the applicable fees and penalties and recommend the filing of the necessary criminal actions against violators.

5.3 The DENR-EMB shall exercise the following responsibilities:

(a) Provide all technical assistance and the mandatory equipment to the LTO in the enforcement of MAC inspection;

(b) Conduct public awareness campaign in coordination with the LTO;

(c) Conduct training and organize trainings for MAC inspection teams in cooperation with the LTO, and DOLE-TESDA;

(d) Enjoy the assistance of the LTO in the prosecution of criminal cases against violators. For this purpose, LTO may recommend the filing of necessary criminal actions against violators;

(e) Provide and adopt a manual for MAC System Inspection and Refrigerant Identification.

5.4 The DOLE-TESDA, in coordination with DENR-EMB, shall conduct the training of the inspection teams organized by DOTC-LTO.

Section 6 - Inspection of Vehicles

6.1 All motor vehicles shall be subjected to registration of their Motors Air Conditioning Systems prior to registration.

6.2 Inspection of motor vehicles shall be conducted only by competent trained by DOLE-TESDA duly designated by DOTC-LTO.

6.3 Inspection shall be conducted in accordance with the manual describing the procedures for determining the type of refrigerant in MAC systems and the correct and method of inspection.

6.4 Motor vehicles may be presented for inspection by MVCs within a period of ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of registration.

Section 7 - Duty Owner, Operator and Maintenance

7.1 The MVCs/LTO shall require motor vehicles servicing/repairing applying for inspection to specify in the Motor Vehicle Inspection Report (MVIR) their information on MAC systems and refrigerant used.

7.2 The MVCs/LTO and its duly authorized representatives shall have the right to enter the premises of any motor vehicle inspection center, MAC servicing and refrigerant facility to conduct inspection, verification and monitoring activities.

7.3 The MVCs/LTO shall annually update the DENR on the status of CFC usage in MACs.

Section 8 - Information, Education and Communication

8.1 The DOTC-LTO, in coordination with DENR-EMB, shall conduct public awareness campaign by an available means, explaining laws, rules and regulations as well as policy statements on MAC system.

Section 9 - Fees and Penalties

Any person, natural or juridical, including government officials and employees and contractors in the commission of any act which is violative of any provisions of this Order shall be criminally liable in accordance with the provisions of Section 41 of Republic Act 8749 (Clean Air Act) and Section 26 of Republic Act 9367 (RA 9367) and other applicable laws, rules and regulations which are all hereinabove made by reference.

Motor vehicles owners apprehended by random inspection teams for the first time using CFC in their MAC shall be given appropriate warning and instruction to convert to non CFC. Subsequent apprehension shall make them liable for the fines and penalties provided for herein.

Section 10 - Applicability

These Rules and Regulations shall be liberally interpreted to carry out the national policy to regulate, control, restrict or prohibit the import, export, use, manufacture, distribution, storage, possession and sale of ozone depleting substances to protect or minimize their risks and hazards to the environment, ozone, public health and the environment.

Section 11 - Adoption of Manual

The Manual for MAC System Inspection and Refrigerant Identification prepared by the DENR-EMB in tandem, private and motor vehicle (Annex 1) shall form part hereof.

Section 12 - Separability Clause

If any provision of this Order is declared void for unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions herein shall continue to be in force and effective and shall not in any way be affected by the provision so declared void and unconstitutional.

Section 13 - Repealing Clause

All Rules and Regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Joint Administrative Order are hereby revised, amended, modified and/or superseded or the Law that be.

Section 14 - Amendments

This Joint Administrative Order may be amended and/or modified from time to time by the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Section 15 - Effectivity

This Joint Administrative Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

(Sgd.) LEANDRO T. MENDOZA
Secretary, DOTC

(Sgd.) MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Secretary, DENR

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Solores
Province of Eastern Samar

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: February 5, 2006
Contract Code: SP-CW-06-01
World Bank Loan No. 4487-PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank on Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Development Project and intends to apply a portion of the funds to the cost to cover eligible payments under the contract for the **Construction of Riverside Development** (Bodegon) open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and Ida Credits.
2. The **Municipality of Solores, Eastern Samar** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Construction of Riverside Development** consists of Bodegon Barangay Proper Poblacion Proximate, Mun. District Compartment & Carretera Pandemon.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting **February 6, 2006 during** office hours at the **Municipal Building Solores, Eastern Samar** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Seven Thousand Pesos (P7,000.00)** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of **ninety (90) days** after the opening and shall be accompanied by a security in the form of **One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00)** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the **Mun. Secretary, SB Session Hall, 2nd floor Municipal Building Solores, Eastern Samar** on **March 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** All bids that are not delivered in the presence of the bidders shall be rejected.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held at **February 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at the SB Session Hall 2nd floor, Municipal Building Municipality of Solores, Eastern Samar.**

(Sgd.) Engr. JUDITH P. DELES
BAC Chairman

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Wholly-Owned Corporation with a Quasi-Judicial and Limited Tax Power

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 01-08-2005

Lot	Location/Description	Number of Parcels	Reserved Bidder
1	Various Cities – Quezon City	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Cory Tiu Realty Corporation
2	Various Cities – Manila	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
3	Various Cities – Pasay	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
4	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
5	Various Cities – Makati	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
6	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
7	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
8	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
9	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
10	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
11	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
12	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
13	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
14	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
15	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
16	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
17	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
18	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
19	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
20	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
21	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
22	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
23	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
24	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
25	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
26	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
27	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
28	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
29	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
30	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
31	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
32	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
33	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
34	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
35	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
36	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
37	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
38	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
39	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
40	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
41	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
42	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
43	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
44	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
45	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
46	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
47	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
48	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
49	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
50	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
51	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
52	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
53	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
54	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
55	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
56	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
57	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
58	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
59	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
60	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
61	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
62	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
63	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
64	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
65	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
66	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
67	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
68	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
69	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
70	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
71	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
72	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
73	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
74	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
75	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
76	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
77	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
78	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
79	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
80	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
81	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
82	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
83	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
84	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
85	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
86	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
87	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
88	Various Cities – Muntinlupa	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
89	Various Cities – Caloocan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
90	Various Cities – Valenzuela	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
91	Various Cities – Malabon	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
92	Various Cities – Navotas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
93	Various Cities – Marikina	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
94	Various Cities – Pasig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
95	Various Cities – Pateros	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
96	Various Cities – San Juan	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
97	Various Cities – Mandaluyong	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
98	Various Cities – Taguig	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
99	Various Cities – Parañaque	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.
100	Various Cities – Las Piñas	15 @ 400 sq. m.	Tony Boy Cojuangco Foundation, Inc.

NOTE: Bidders should bid on one Lot only.
Bidders should be Filipino Citizens.
Duly Licensed Real Estate Brokers.

Only licensed and registered real estate brokers in the Philippines shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Interested licensed and registered real estate brokers must submit to the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on or before February 8, 2006 the following documents:

1. Photocopy of valid and current Real Estate Broker's License;
2. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Identification Card;
3. Photocopy of valid and current Tax Identification Number (TIN) Card;
4. Photocopy of valid and current Mayor's Permit;
5. Photocopy of valid and current Business Permit;
6. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
7. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
8. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
9. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
10. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
11. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
12. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
13. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
14. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
15. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
16. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
17. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
18. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
19. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
20. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
21. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
22. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
23. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
24. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
25. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
26. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
27. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
28. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
29. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
30. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
31. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
32. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
33. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
34. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
35. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
36. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
37. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
38. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
39. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
40. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
41. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
42. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
43. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
44. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
45. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
46. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
47. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
48. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
49. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
50. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
51. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
52. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
53. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
54. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
55. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
56. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
57. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
58. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
59. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
60. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
61. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
62. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
63. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
64. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
65. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
66. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
67. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Tax Receipt;
68. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Oath of Office;
69. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker's Professional Identification Card;
70. Photocopy of valid and current Professional Regulation Commission Real Estate Broker

Sunday BIZ
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Rojales
E-mail sr_business@inquirer.com.ph

FRANCIS BARAN (left) with PBSP officials Maria S. Prieto of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and David Balangue, SGV&Co.

PBSP trustee Hans Sy of the SM group (right) with Ramon Mendiola, chair Manila Mandarin

Fighting the good fight vs poverty

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Photos by Rudy Esposo

ON DEC. 16, 1970, 50 OF the country's top businessmen put their energies together to fight a common enemy: Poverty. The weapon? Philippine Business for Social Progress.

It's been 35 years since that inaugural meeting at the Hotel Inter-Continental, yet the war against poverty continues, said PBSP and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan during the 35th anniversary celebration last week.

Many battles, however, have been won.

For instance, corporations have gone beyond simple check writing and charity work, and now continue corporate social responsibility with their corporate mission and practices, with PBSP as the prime example.

From 1971 to 2005, PBSP provided P1.8 billion in total program assistance, going to 5,049 projects and reaching 3.27 million beneficiaries.

This represents perhaps the single biggest block of private sector funds managed and disbursed by one institution to the poor and marginalized sectors of the economy, making PBSP a model for business sector participation in development efforts in the region.

FORMER BIR commissioner Rheumalin Tan

In bold on those successes, Pangilinan said that this year, PBSP would intensify its efforts at poverty reduction in four areas: Area resource management, basic education, information technology services and health and micro and small enterprise development.

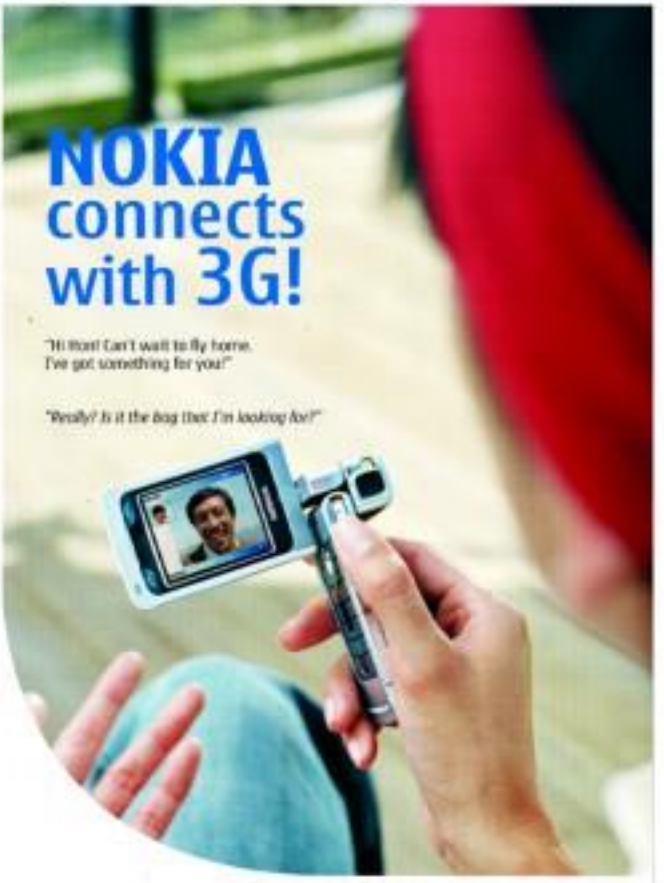
He added that PBSP would continue reaching out to the Annual Parade of the Philippines by providing scholarship and education assistance, a mobile hospital dome to battle areas, barracks for the Presidential Security Group, housing under the Gawad Kalinga program and financial and strategic planning to the Philippine Military Academy.

Fulfilling these ambitious goals would require money, and Pangilinan

RAMON del Rosario Jr. of the Phinma group

FLDT president Nagamin Macarena

PEDRO Rocas of Centro Azucarero de Don Pedro



More discoveries in fascinating Kaoshiung

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

BUSINESS TRAVEL

(LEFT) The spectacular Sun Moon Lake; (above) Taroko Gorge or Taroko National Park, named as in Snow

AFTER SNAPPING THE BREATH-TAKING sights of Sun Moon Lake (and aboard by the ever hip Lala I lined), we headed for our 4-hour long trip to Asia Pine Resort Cottage, a cool (pardon the pun!) mountain resort where we stayed for the night. Here, one is reminded of a Swiss village.

The resort's tastefully decorated guest rooms are spacious with enough room for catching some Zzzs. The bathroom with its shower-in-the-bathroom feature is huge. The rest morning, as we enjoyed breakfast and a view of the snow-capped Global Mountain from the picture windows of the resort's dining room. In fact, the view from every corner of the resort was just breath-taking.

After a failed attempt to pass by phoenix in browsing vacation in Hehuan Mountain (3,416 meters above sea level), off we were on the Bagtan Formosa Road for a compromise-scenic locale. Our next stop: Taroko National Park, Taiwan's most famous national park.

One of Taroko's attractions is the Taroko Gorge. We explored a portion of this magnificent 19-kilometer canyon and were welcomed by the chirping of birds, a cool breeze and the soothing sound of the roaring rapids surrounded by cliffs. Indeed, "nature at its finest."

According to Ariel, our tour guide, the road of the highway running through the Gorge was carved out of the cliffs. The total project cost an estimated $211 billion and 450 lives.

The Eternal Spring Shrine, which was built in memory of those who died during the construction, is located just a short distance above the entrance of the Gorge.

On our way to Hualien, our last stop, we passed through a string of roadside shops selling marble, black-clad women his 25-degree C winter weather's selling bowl rom behind glass windows.

With a population of 114,000, Hualien is the largest city on Taiwan's East Coast. Known as the "City of Marble," Hualien is the province's leading producer of marble and jade. Marble is a popular material for sidewalks, arcades and buildings. One of the highlights of our Hualien visit was a tour of one of the city's marble factories. These factories sell jewelry, marble slabs and decor to tourists.

China Airlines has daily flights to Taipei and Kaohsiung (www.china-airlines.com).

In the next Business Travel issue: Secret addresses and the Sexy Healthy Hunks Guide.

For more info, please e-mail sandragarcia@gmail.com or sdg1620@yahoo.com

nexus AUTOMOTIVE

A New Automotive Brand of Light Commercial Vehicles (SUVs, Pick-Ups, 4x2s, 4x4s, Vans), Trucks and Buses which will soon be launched invites applicants for

DEALERS

for the following key areas:

Quezon City (Commonwealth, Quezon Ave., Balintawak Libis) Mandaluyong (Shaw Blvd., EDSA) Port Bonifacio Global City Roxas Boulevard, Alabang, Muntinlupa Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Legazpi

Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Baguio, Dagupan, Urdaneta Tarlac, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Isabela, Cagayan, Pangasinan

Tacloban, Marabasan, Bacolod, Iloilo Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga

Dealer Applicants must be willing to invest in full dealership facilities. You may email your Letter of Intent and Company Profile to management@apc.ph or fax to 896-6163.

Affordable LIBERTY

Fighting...

From page B1

said PEDF was committed to spend P858.2 million this year, a record high for a single year.

PEDF must do no less as, according to Pangilinan, poverty remained the country's most daunting and toughest challenge.

"Just like our business 35 years ago, we must continue to be visionaries," Pangilinan said. "And find new ways to harness the resources of the business sector so that corporate activism can indeed become a reality in our country and a model for the world to see."

SGV & Co. senior partner Jerry Isla

PBSP trustee Edgar Chua, chief executive of the Shell group in the Philippines.

Care for a cup of extra virgin coffee?

Nestlé launches NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick

Nestlé Philippines Inc introduces NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick, a limited edition coffee made from coffee cherries handpicked at the beginning of the harvest season.

The new product promises a truly satisfying coffee drinking experience to its consumers, brought about by a unique roasting process that brings out the fresh, flavourful taste and rich aroma of these first pick coffee cherries.

NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick is a celebration of Filipino coffee quality and expertise. It bears the Kape Isla seal, a guarantee that the product uses 100% Philippine coffee. Apart from that, each First Pick coffee cherry is carefully selected and handpicked by skilled Filipino farmers, to ensure that only the highest coffee-making standards are met.

Nestlé has long been sourcing its coffee from about 100,000 Filipino farmers. It also deals with about 300,000 other people in the country who are in one way or another involved in the planting, harvesting, or processing and trading of coffee.

Likewise, the Nestlé coffee farm in Davao provides 80% of all robusta coffee planting materials in the Philippines. It is this access to coffee farms and field experts that helped Nestlé discover that the first ripe and red coffee cherries picked during the start of the harvest season, when carefully selected and roasted brings about a uniquely fresh and flavourful cup.

NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick limited edition is now available in a 50g box or a 200g jar.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

"HAPPY-HAPPY-YOGA," submitted by Gabi Espaldon, who writes: "Head up to the clouds, feet not on the ground. This is the style in two-segment beach bums, jumping around a beautiful sand bar in Tourism I which appears and disappears with the rise and fall of the tides."

BEST OF BORACAY WINNING PHOTOS

Oh joy!

WHEN WE ASKED IF YOU had a photograph that best captured a vacation experience in Boracay, we thought we would get a lot of photos, yes, but we didn't think we'd get hundreds of photos.

Our inbox is now filled to bursting with all kinds of photos taken in Boracay, most of them scenic. The sea, the white sand, the clouds, the reefs, the rainbows and the sunsets, the sunset. We know the Boracay sunset is beyond beautiful, but enough already. No more sunset photos, please.

What we are looking for are shots of vacationers doing whatever it is that people do in the unforgettable paradise that is Boracay. In other words, experiential more than scenic, although it won't hurt if the scene is there, too.

This week's winners are the photos submitted by Gabi Espaldon and Delilah Grace Magtoto.

Story are now qualified as finalists for the top three prizes, not to mention but they may claim their Nivea Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any week day (call 897-2020 and ask for Hazel Enriquez).

Contest nitty-gritty

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay.

If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200 resolution (JPG format and unaltered).

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, landline phone number and e-mail address.

You may submit as many entries as you wish, but you may win only once. It is important to e-mail us a mailbox entry separately.

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5/F Dona Chiong Room (bet. cor. Ugong and Shaw/ado Sts., Mandaluyong City, or e-mail to wendyjimenez@inquirer.com.ph.

Entries must be received at the PEC office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 29. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Rooms Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

Criteria for judging are: 40 percent relevance, 30 percent overall impact, and 30 percent quality and technique.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

All winning entries will become properties of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., which reserve the right to use the photos without any liability.

Raking prizes

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair, five days-four night stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast, and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair, four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast, and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair, three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast, and Nivea Sun gift packs.

Winning photos will be published in Sunday Lifestyle on April 9, 2006.

SPA DOUBLE Room

Luxury in a jiffy

By Kirby Go
Contributor

HOTELS main entrance

SUPERIOR or Deluxe Room

IN TODAY'S WEB-BASED WORLD, FIVE years of marriage is the new seven-year itch. And for me and my husband, Matthew, planning a fifth year anniversary was hardly romantic. He did the best we could do for ourselves given our requirements...convenience, luxury and location. We booked ourselves for a long weekend at the new Landmark Mandarin Oriental (2005) in Hong Kong (www.mandarinoriental.com; +852 2132 0188).

The LMO is one of Hong Kong's newest hotels (the other is the Four Seasons adjoining the IFC Mall) that opened last year. At the starting rack rate of HK $4,000 (US $500) a night, it holds the record of having the most expensive but the best land-out rooms in the former British colony.

Although LMO claims to have the biggest rooms in Hong Kong per square foot, this was not evident when I compared our room to rooms of the same standard at the Four Seasons/IFC where my friends were staying. But once inside the bathrooms, LMO wins hands-down seconds in design but with generous sizes of the UK's cult brand, Ivo, mahogany Amoiares, across the four bedroom' most common Kleinhaus. Top that with the privacy, impeccable Mandarin service and prestige of saying, "I'm staying at the Landmark MO."

Head of choice

It is fast becoming the international fashion crowd's hotel of choice, being steps away from many flagship stores in Central. When we were there, more rooms were already booked for the Chanel and Louis Vuitton openings for the following week. Josephine Ho, director of public relations at LMO, attributes its family the 113-room hotel as a location, quite hard, preferring to use the label "small urban luxury hotel".

On the original Oral legendary Mandarin Oriental (MO) on Connaught Road, where the classic décor is very Oriental, the LMO does not have one singular theme but is

THE MO Bar

has standout style. Los Angeles-based architect Pete Simonian (of Park Hyatt Tokyo and New York Mercer Hotels fame) has created a quiet area in the busy Central district that is comfortable, welcoming and, most of all, private.

The LMO is private as much as the MO is bustling. Its lobby is designed like a living room with two small sitting areas, display cases and book shelves housing art, photographs, antique jewelry and a selection of style titles.

Entrance to the LMO is through a discreet, blackened driveway on Queen's Road, next to the new Harvey Nichols. (There is, in fact, a tendency to make Harvey Nicks Best.) Here we are welcomed by black marble concierge desks leading in a simple staircase flanked by two panels of polished wood, themselves conceptual idea of the sails of a Chinese junk with the black marble representing waves. To the left of the Queen's Road entrance is the MO Bar which does a complete change from day to night with the flip of a light switch and the rise of a mirrored downbridge.

At Amber, where Adam Tihany (architect of Mandarin Oriental Paris's restaurant, New York's restaurant Per Se and Paul Leighton boutique) reached 4,200 golden tubes from the ceiling, Dutch celebrity chef Richard Ekkebus (of the exclusive resort Sandy Lane in Barbados which is known to run down many celebrities as much as how there) has assembled a menu as creative that it reads like a science experiment on paper, but is exceptional on the palate. It is so exceptional that a food philistine like me who can live on Maggi and rice, wanted to taste the genius who prepared courses of seared tuna rolled in crispy chicken skin and cherry tomatoes and watermelon with coherent reduction. A main course of Anjou pigeon and foie gras "Amber" (serving is belonging) and the dessert of chocolate ice cream duo, this is one romantic dose to lose/lament diny (or three).

It is one of those restaurants (like Wolseley, London) where a bottle of wine would account for three-quarters of your total bill and the debt of an obscene notion. My husband was impressed with the wine list and, being the wine ignoramus that I am (I always order the cheapest), was impressed with a 2004 hand-held computer wine list (he remembered worked with. To which Matthew quipped, "We can buy that program anywhere but they have a great collar."

Biggest indulgence

The biggest indulgence of the hotel lies in its rooms, which may not have the "wow" factor but they are quiet with luxuriously linen made up with 400-thread count cotton sheets and a throw.

The glass-walled bathrooms feature generous bathtubs (a rarity, they are the size of a pool). Classic double or deep rooms, and in larger rooms, there are separate dressing tables that take advantage of natural light.

And based on the smile on Matthew's face, it was rich heaven—my content free any personal media devices could easily be wiped to-do. Classic double or deep rooms, and in larger rooms, there are separate dressing tables that take advantage of natural light. and video-cams in place, the bathrooms had mini LCD TV. Needless to say there were hi-fi systems and a DVD player in the rooms.

The indulgence of the hotel may be excess but the spa will serve as consolation for many hotels and hotel residents. The 21,500 square-foot Banyan Tree spa has access to another more for women; 26 treatment rooms (Roman-style steam room, vitality pools, heated mosaic chaise lounges, tea facilities and aromatherapy showers). There are also relaxation rooms, yoga rooms, a fitness studio, a gym and a spa café. The swimming pool will open in 2006.

The LMO is so centrally located that we spent our anniversary on romantic pursuits such as going to the barber shop. Because my face, going to the bank, visiting the cobbler, going to the gym, all within the hotel or steps from the hotel.

In the future, we may not even be able to "get away from the dogs" because the LMO, like many European hotels, takes dogs. It really a hotel that understands the meaning of urban luxury.

Kirby Go is the author of "Chic Shoppers' Hotel Guide to Hong Kong" available at National Book Store and Powerbooks nationwide.

ACCOR and Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc. execs (for press: Patrick Lee, director of Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc. and of Allied Property Limited of HK; Patrick Bossert, vice president for operations, Accor Asia Pacific; Oscar Salvacion, president, Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc.; Michael Isenberg, managing director, Accor Asia Pacific; Messe Hashimoto, director of Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc. and VP of Rajasa Overseas Asia Pte Ltd. of Japan; Bernd Schmidke, general manager, Hotel Philippine Plaza.

Deluxe hotel to get a new name

NOTE: PHILIPPINE PLAZA HAS signed a new management contract with Accor, the European leader and one of the world's largest groups in travel, tourism and corporate services.

The hotel will be relaunched as the fabled Philippine Plaza in 2007 after a multimillion dollar renovation.

Michael Isenberg, managing director of Accor Asia Pacific, said the change would be a significant event for Manila's hotel industry as the fabled brand would become Asia Pacific's largest deluxe hotel brand by the end of 2007.

Accor will help draw customers from both established markets and also emerging markets such as Thailand, India, Australia and South America, which have well-established links with the Philippines and where Accor has a very strong presence.

The hotel's main dining outlet, Aplod, is scheduled for opening in March after a $2.5 million renovation. Aplod is envisioned as a state-of-the-art interactive dining experience that will integrate Italian, Chinese and outdoor entertainment. Its mid-cuisine open plan cooking stations and seating for 400 guests will position it as Manila's most fashionable dining destination.

TravelBriefs

Discounts at travel expo

THE STAR Travel Tour Expo (TTE), the largest trade and consumer event of the travel industry, will be held Feb. 17-19 at the Shopwise Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Major international and domestic airlines will be offering discounts and all-in-one travel deals.

Philippine Airlines is the official carrier of TTE '06, while Air Philippines is among the sponsors. Among those joining the expo are Air Sahara Airconnect Inc., Asian Spirit Inc., Air One (int'l) Inc., Cebu Pacific, Continental Micronesia, Gulf Air, Hawaiian Air, Inter-Island Airways, Japan Airlines International Co. Ltd., Jet Airways Asia Private Limited, Kenya Airways, Pan Pacific Charter Inc., La Passage to India Associates Inc., Lufthansa German Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Qatar Airways, Royal Brunei Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Southeast Asian Airlines, Supermonic Express Inc.

Those who want to "Travel Lifestyle Experience the Difference" Call (632)858 to 59, e-mail info@travelandtours-pc.com.ph, or log on to www.philtravelfairexpo.com.ph.

Budget-friendly Boracay

CELEBRATE the many pleasures of Boracay at budget-friendly rates with Sun Season 2006, a special deal of Sol Kitaya Resorts. A Boracay getaway is available for as low as P2,800 per person for a three days two-nights deal. Singles can spend quality time together for only P3,400 per person. Sun wishes can pay only P5,600.

Each person only has to pay P4,199 (triple occupancy), P4,000 (double occupancy) and P5,400 (single occupancy) for a four-days three-nights stay. The deals also include transfer from accommodation, breakfast during the second day, welcome drinks and round-trip land and boat transfers.

The Sun Season 2006 package is available at any of Kitaya Group's three properties until June 15 (except Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Dec. 30 New Year's eve Standard, Deluxe and VIP rooms. Call (632)812-1338 or (632)843-1365, or the Boracay office at 62-036-2889414. Fax (632)840-4186 or e-mail reservations@sol-kitaya.com.

Best choice

LUFTHANSA is the best choice for business travelers. Its daily long-haul flight from Frankfurt to Manila at 9:35 p.m. becomes the only business class option for a full day's work before going to the airport.

Lufthansa's Privatsitz is the first of its-kind business class seat that reclines to an almost-flat, two-meter bed.

Lufthansa's FlyNet is the first ever in-flight wireless internet at 30,000 feet.

For more information, visit www.lufthansa-philippines.com or call the Lufthansa Passenger office at 8806400.

Special promo

VERDE Island Resort in Batangas City offers a special promotion to mark the Chinese New Year.

Overnight accommodation rates are per person per room on a twin-sharing basis at a P2,888 at Villa Carmela, P3,888 at Casa Aurlaya, and P5,288 at Casa Sabina. All packages include round-trip boat transfer, welcome drink, complimentary breakfast, complimentary set dinner for two, etc.

The resort also offers guests a New Chinese New Year pudding. The promo runs from Jan. 29-Feb. 5. Call Makati booking offices at 7600888 or 7600870.

Travel book

THE LATEST travel book by Amelia Ma. Lacson, "The Archipelagic Sanctuaries," launched recently at Bookwork Center, is now available in National Bookstore, Powerbooks and other bookstores. The book is distributed by Anvil Publishing.

New Macau hot spot

MACAU recently opened the Macau Fisherman's Wharf, a world-class complex that combines entertainment, retail, food, hotel, marina, conventions and exhibition facilities into one place. The site of over 93,000 square meters is located at Macau's outer harbor and is a five-minute walk from the Macau Ferry Terminal and Outer Harbor. Macau Fisherman's Wharf promises a completely different fashion experience for tourists and locals alike, and represents a new development in the Macau tourism industry. Macau Fisherman's Wharf is open 24 hours with no admission fee. Operating hours of all rides are from 10a.m. to 8p.m. daily, and tickets are easily available at booths. For Macau bus packages, call (632)636-0130/42 or visit www.macautourism.gov.mo.

The new Mandarin in Hong Kong calls itself a 'small ultra-luxury hotel'

GUINOT
INSTITUT • PARIS

Your skin is already more beautiful at the end of the treatment.

Whether it is in New York, Paris, Hongkong or The Philippines the treatments are carried out with the same excellence demanded by chic sophisticated women around the world.

Get 20% OFF on any Guinot Beauty Treatment. Promo is from February 1-18, 2006 only.

6793 Retail Arcade, Makati Tel. No. 8103852
5th Flr. Shangri-la Mall EDSA Tel. no. 635-4538

Hard to feed file # 1

"My daughter Misha who's a picky eater gained weight faster with PediaSure!"

Misha Salud

PediaSure and Picky Eaters

Willy Pedrosa

Highest calorie density.

Dual carbohydrate advantage.

Higher MCT (Medium Chain Triglycerides) fat content.

Complete and Balanced Nutrition for Picky Eaters

Abbott

SAMSUNG
imagine phones for every lifestyle

X150
P4,+++
Simplicity at its best

X000
P9,+++
Enriching Mobile Experience

X700
P15,+++
In a Class by Itself

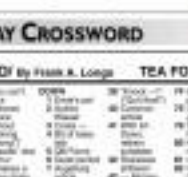
X820
P8,+++
Setting the Bar Higher

E360
P14,+++
The Ultimate Multimedia Phone

E730
P17,+++
The Fifth Fantastic

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings, engagements, silver and golden anniversaries, and debuts. For weddings, submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding and a photo of the couple to the Inquirer, PO. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



HENDRICKS-MATEO

Mary Luddie Mateo, daughter of Eddie and Lagrimas Mateo, will exchange wedding vows with Carlos Hendricks, son of Carl Lee (deceased) and Ruth Hendricks, on Feb. 25, on the beachfront of Friday's Resort, Boracay, Aklan. Fely Pineda designed the bride's gown with a multilayered paneled skirt in ivory silk shiffon and pebble georgette trimmed with crystal beads. Her crescent cape is made of bridal silk and twisted chiffon. It has a short veil of double-width illusion tulle.

LAZARO-SILVESTRE

Leo Lazaro, son of Benjamin and Lilian Lazaro, will marry Katherine Silvestre, daughter of Emilio and Violeta Jimlel, on Feb. 12, at Christ the King Parish in Greenwood, QC. Reception: Ardiaro at Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La in Ortigas Center. The bride will wear an ivory off-shoulder and empire-cut gown. Bodice has fully beaded Spanish lace and pleated draping. Hem skirt is in silk organza, designed and executed by Jobbie Baldoza. Baldoza also made the wedding ensemble in summer colors. Nicole Tony Bedelgaza will provide the flowers and Eric Blasingame of Studio 54b will do the hair and makeup for the bride.

Sunday Crossword

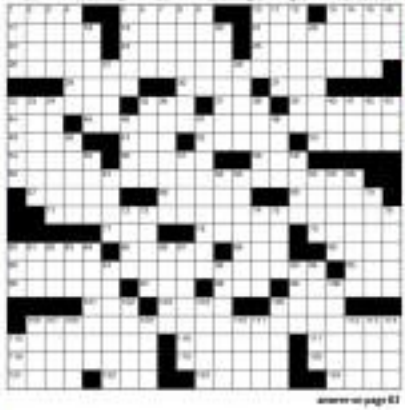
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **TEA FOR TWO**

ACROSS

1 Feeding ore mule
5 Not
10 Undecided
13 Engage, as gears
17 "Bye, Mama!" Jones hit
19 Wayward child
20 Lose nothing
21 Dress in sheets
24 Design a sheets pattern
25 Weapon, sometimes
26 Soap flower
27 Nuclear fallout, very often
28 Fancy name
30 Snakes
34 — Kabul, Afghanistan
35 Shoe eyelet
36 — Jacks (children's game)
37 Fuel
38 Ill-at-ease sort
40 Cheesy coating
41 Cheesy coating
42 Clear — (remove)
43 Spec — (1950 film)
44 Potato and a half
45 Aquatic mammal
46 — Libby (Jamie Lee's mom)
47 Bitch
48 Swimming pen
49 Newspaper section
50 Mythical creature designated by Aristotle
51 Dad, briefly
52 Old Testament book
53 Additional
54 Bird's beak
57 Gardening, at times
58 "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" speaker
59 Lasting a while
60 Pitcher's beginning
61 Cheese choice
62 "Time waits for" poet
63 Three times, in music
64 "Time is — money"
65 Lawn ornament
66 Lawn ornament
67 Gorgeous girl
68 Relating to the kidneys
69 Paschal season
70 Bikini, e.g.

DOWN

1 Driver's part
2 Rodeo rope
3 Pirates' home
4 Drinks — (cocktail party)
5 Bits of baby talk
6 Off-Broadway
7 QB's home
8 Sauté method
9 Fragrant smoke
10 Angelfish variety
11 — Mitchell, Georgia
12 Bit
13 Bowling alley button
14 Pitcher's stat
15 Wild and crazy
16 Pitcher
18 Pitcher — (for the time being)
22 Sleeping sickness fly
23 Lasting a while
25 Fitness regimens
26 Pitcher's beginning
27 Cheese choice
28 "Time waits for" poet
29 Three times, in music
31 "Time is — money"
32 Lawn ornament
33 Lawn ornament
34 "Knock — Everybody's Jumpin'" (1958 hit)
36 Commercial airline
37 Pitcher's stat
38 Bowling alley button
39 Wild and crazy
40 — Mitchell, Georgia
41 Bit
43 Bit
44 Bit
45 Bit
46 Bit
47 Bit
48 Bit
49 Bit
50 Bit
51 Bit
52 Bit
53 Bit
54 Bit
55 Bit
56 Bit
57 Bit
58 Bit
59 Bit
60 Bit
61 Bit
62 Bit
63 Bit
64 Bit
65 Bit
66 Bit
67 Bit
68 Bit
69 Bit
70 Bit



answer on page E3

MEJIA-VILLAMEJOR

Anthony John V. Mejia, son of lawyer Victor and Dra. Nilo'I Mejia, will marry Mayleen Abigail L. Villamejor, daughter of Dr. Amancio S. and Teresita L. Villamejor, on Feb. 5, at San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception at at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros.

TRIADA-INOCENCIO

Jamiel E. Triada, son of Jose G. and Felicitas G. Triada (deceased), recently married Mariana P. Inocencio, daughter of Gervasio B. and Rosalina F. Inocencio, at San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception is at Tamayo's Café, Intramuros.

SAMSUNG SLIDE-UP STYLE COLLECTION

D600
P23,+++
Mini T-Flash
2 Megapixel Camera, Direct TV Output, Bluetooth™ and External Memory (T-Flash)

D500
P16,+++
1.3 Megapixel Camera, 128 MB User Memory and Bluetooth™

D510
P18,+++
1.3 Megapixel Camera, Expandable Memory (T-Flash), Bluetooth™ File and MP3 Player

D720
P20,+++
Symbian OS, Expandable Memory (MMC Micro), Bluetooth™ and 1.3 Megapixel Camera

E350
P13,+++
Compact Slide-up, MP3, Camera with Flash, 65MB User Memory and Infra

Sunday LIFESTYLE

The BMW 1 Series is a tad too compact for my outfits and wigs. By the time I get my feathers and petticoat inside, I would have occupied the whole rear seat

CHARLIE Carmona loves his BMW 1.

THE CHOSEN ONES. Cele Singson, Aimee Gonzales, Ginny Tuason, GP Reyes, Sea Princess, Charlie Carmona, Lolo Cinco, Soto Mancos and Romina Urra-Gonzales with Carmen

Take a drive with me

Tessa!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

BMW TEAM. Leana Ferreira, GP Reyes, Sonia BMEI's Rosalyn Reyes and BMW's Twinky Lagdameo

MARKETING is THE name of the game. The global trend is all about how to generate hits. This includes directly reaching consumers through cutting-edge promotions or strategically positioning a product to appeal to its niche market. The more opportunity original and innovative the campaign is, the more buzz it will get.

Even with millions of eBoys out there, business has become more personal and big corporations are using the video in individual-centered marketing. Although they still do mass-based advertising, they are equal attentive on how to reach their final consumers.

BMW is spearheading a kind of "try-marketing" for the introduction of their new BMW 1 Series to the Philippine market. In lieu of the usual car show with Vina Morales grinning in front of the cars in their micro-minis, the extremely popular 1 Series launched a new and exclusive motoring circle called Club 1. With the aim of providing personalized driving experience, 18 of these ultra cool, sporty cars are being given for a "driftworthy" weekend to prospective motoring, upscale mobile individuals.

Personally, the BMW 1 Series is a tad too compact for my outfits and wigs. By the time I get my feathers and petticoat inside the car, I would have occupied the whole rear seat. Not as a chosen one of the elite BMW circle, I gladly obliged their new corporate communications manager, Leana Ferreira, and joined the first batch of Club 1 drivers.

After signing all the release forms which I knew in the process return the car, agreement —I got my quick driving instructions for my sprinkling grey 118i (pure in the launch cocktail in Sudeany Cuisine. It was amazing to see all the 1 Series units all decked out with pigeons logos like Petron, Meralco, Samsung, Smart Mobile and Sony BMEI. My initial reaction was to request to convert most of the 1 Series to a BMW 1 Series, but I decided not to try that much.

BMW exposes driver Lito Cirunan explained that membership in Club 1 will be limited and interested parties must complete application forms available at BMW showrooms or online via www.bmw.com.ph.

Also on this website are stories, advertisements and photo galleries of the members.

Since I am constantly with my camera, my blog is more like a photo album where I took them of the car all over the city (including Ubli to Bohol) and on the highway and the new Tarmac Point golf course in Lipa.

In the end, I added over 300 kilometers of mileage to my car by the time it was returned to its release BMW Libis. I tried to break the record of 400 km, set by some tech guy who was only interested in the maneuverability, acceleration and road handling.

With my petite frame, the car was actually perfect for me once I got the hang of driving it around. From my first stop at the Eurodisa carousel right next door to Joan Miro's Gril at The Fair to the last shopping day to Divi with fellow climber Lejea Carpa, I found out that 1 Series is a wonderful car to have in this crowded city.

Hello, love

As a certified shopaholic, I tend to buy products that I have tried, usually thanks to free samples given at launches or if I am given discount coupons. I also believe in supporting the products that are generous with charitable donations. For instance, I prefer buying my design books and magazines at Power Books because they have been so generous with sponsoring

SEATTLE'S Basil's Barcelona lily and Frances Lim

NOKIA head Purkshit Bhasin and lovely wife Jini

BMW corporate director Lito Cerman and her wife Divas

CATS owner Fele Ang and wife Grace

FASHION designer Jeremy Reader Irene Batica and Nokia lady Leanne Erni

TWO GENERATIONS of Assumption girls, Marilen Parish and daughter Dianne Aguilar

Take a drive with me

From page B1

ng Assumption charitable projects.

And I see Ellen's fearsome shampoo and their personalized hair products, usually given by longtime Villarosa, who is also a member of MWC Club 1.

The world is, indeed, getting smaller with the advancement of communications technology. There are just so many options out there for brides for them to

aggressive sales to produce products that this a will a Nokia country.

In a unique effort to launch the Nokia 7260, 7370 and 7380, the MRC Tent at The Fort was converted into an inspiring and romantic setting with flowing, draped fabric for an intimate, room-like it's never been done before poetry-reading cum launch, all designed by fashion guru/muse Gesbe.

Arriving late as usual, I thought the fashion show was done and people were just milling around waiting for the raffle draw/recovery, one's surprise, Gino didn't have a show but read poetry with two other luminaries actors. He relaxing after the performance that took long to a big audience was more challenging than designing a 50-piece collection.

Luanne Kate of Nokia, they would be hosting the next biggest fashion show in March, so Nokia decided to introduce the phones using this very different concept. It might have been different but it certainly formed more attention on the phones, although I must admit I was also concentrating on the pass-around food created by only food expert Margarita Haus.

It was also my type of party because there were so many cute-as-country giveaways. I came home with crystal bracelets and cell-phone charms.

I was hoping to win in the raffle but no luck this time. Luckily, holiday Cruises got a new Nokia 3650 courtesy of his wife.

Astrology-wise

I'm still on a big shot high, what with all the festivities of the New Year of the Fire Dog, so all my recent parties are Chinese-inspired.

In preparation for my Assumption Sitkada this October, our Assumption batch '81, all born in the Year of the Rabbit, hosted a mercenda with the "golden girls" of batch '56, who are mostly Dragons.

After attending the informative

SUMMIT Point guards Dennis Valdes, Eric Teves-ee, Paul Chuidian, Robert Tron-jones Jr., Joey Bonifacio and Avner Lavner

CLIPPHOUSE Tagaytay gang, Chef Paul Hoang, Jennifer Dee, Mia and Ben, Frank Brites, and Bonnie's Rene Alcala

ASSUMPTION Golden Batch '56 and Silver Batch '81 at a cocktail party

COOL Nokia and Ellen Umenza girls Cristina Trinidad, Tina Tinio, Anabelle Co and Tessa Dragon

DIVI shopping with BMW 1 Series: Eva Princess and Lotus

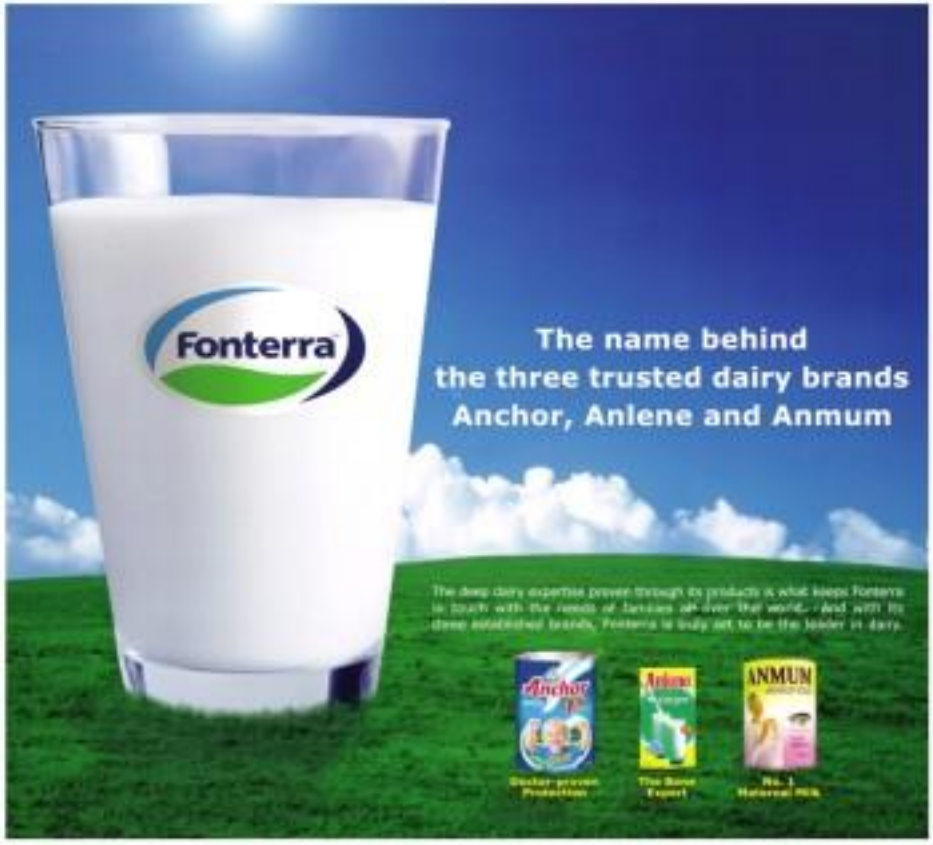
LUCKY friends Lucilla Lacsin, Norma Carlos, Mary de Leon and Mona Santos

Feng shui expert Arthur Kho

signs have generally similar features, everyone has a different chart based on their date and time of birth. For this year, most babies are going to have a better year financially and this is also a good year to get married.

In summary, it is not an exact science but for fengsui, as parents-to-be/adults should be used, that while all the charitable work we are all doing, I hope all of us, regardless of animal sign, will have a wonderful year ahead!

E-mail the author at angelitasun@inquirer.com.ph



Love has made him a wanted man

DEAR EMILY,

My father has been a widower for almost two years now. The problem is he got involved with a married woman in our barrio.

Now her family is suing them both for adultery. They even sought a warrant for my father's arrest.

All my life I've not heard of a single man going to jail for adultery. My understanding is, in this case, the woman is the only one committing adultery, not my father.

At the moment, they are hiding somewhere far away from our province. My father loves this woman but I know their relationship is very wrong.

His family said they could forgive him, but not my father. They would put him in jail if he tried to return to our barrio.

What to do, how we do?

MISSY CONFUSED

Funny how some of us are familiar with the law because that being single exempts us from being called an adulterer.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

According to a legal consultant, adultery is considered a consensual crime. This means it can be committed only with the cooperation or participation of another party.

What is interesting, however, is that only a woman can be held liable for adultery as the offense is defined as having sex with a man other than the legitimate husband.

Your father, having fallen in love with and having an affair with a married woman, is considered a co-principal in the commission of the crime of adultery.

But, from a layman's point of view, certain questions have to be asked for a more balanced picture, though the issue might be moot and academic at this stage.

How did the problem get so far this big? What is the woman's relationship with her legitimate husband? Was your father the home-wrecker, or was there already trouble over before he got into the picture?

Most importantly, is there a lot of money involved in this if only a legal separation is pursued?

There are no definitive blacks and whites in cases like this. Sometimes it just takes the proverbial "feather" to break a marriage. Not that it is either here nor there anymore.

I can't believe the legal upheaval your father's affair has caused in your barrio as this age of television and prevailing mores balances it just shows that no matter how much sexual permissiveness is caused down our throats on cable, television, or Internet that much remains the-not places like your barrio, the ingrained notion of a people never keen to step with the supposed "preventing" mood.

Your letter left a lot of questions unanswered, nevertheless, Solon ripping up his pants till the moon blues over, your father

EMILY

Celebrating the Chinese New Year with SMART Infinity and Anvil

What better way for SMART Infinity to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year than in the company of some of their most valued friends and clients, who also happen to be the young and promising leaders of the Chinese business community. At the Anvil Business Club in Greenhills, San Juan, SMART Infinity joined in the festivities at the elegant dinner reception for the business community's movers and shakers. The evening's festivities included an elaborate fireworks display, modern Asian pop music and the "Awakening of the Dragon" ceremony led by none other than Vilma Santos Recto, who is on her first term as Lipa City Mayor.

The ancient ceremony is usually conducted by a Taoist monk and its purpose is to cleanse and bless the nation, as well as bestowing the strength of the dragon on the

Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto is presented with a plaque of appreciation by SMART Key Chua, Anvil President Wilson Lee Flores, and Chairman George Ty

Chairman Tan, Andrew Tan, Bernard Tan, Patrick Cheng, Claudine Gaerlan, Jenny Limpanse, Kenneth Cheng, Antoni Tan, Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, Pilar Chua, Bernie Dy, George Ty, Wilson Ang, Hermogenes Perlas-Bernabe, Vivian Tan, Winfred Co, Calvin Chua and Kamalyn Cheng

Since its establishment in 1991, dignitaries who have spoken at the prestigious monthly "Anvil Exchange Forum" include former President Corazon C. Aquino and other Philippine Presidents as well as top tycoons. Last year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hosted the induction ceremony of Anvil officers in July 2005 at Malacañang Palace with 150 diplomats, tycoons and Anvil members present. Other special guests who have graced the Anvil Business Club include business leaders like John Gokongwei Jr., Lucio Tan, Taiwan's Acer founder Stan Shih and other achievers.

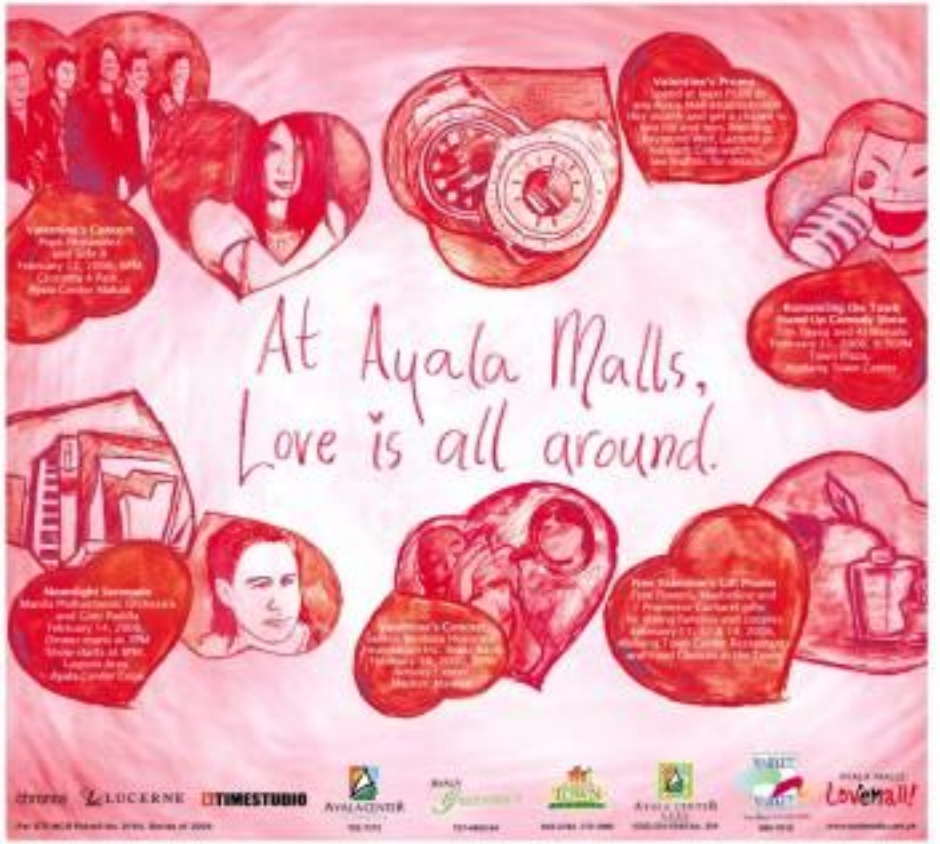
In December 2004, the annual Anvil Christmas dinner reception was cancelled by its present leaders in order to donate funds to victims of the Quezon province flood disaster through Philippine National Red Cross led by Chairman Senator Richard Gordon. Then just last December, Anvil leaders again cancelled their Christmas dinner reception to allocate money for a free medical and dental mission to an 1800 urban families of Marikina City in cooperation with Marikina Mayor Marides Cadiz Fernando and the multi-awarded Manila Chinatown Charity Foundation.

SMART Infinity is proud to be associated with a prestigious and humane organization such as Anvil and hopes that the examples they set serve as an inspiration for others to follow suit.

SMART Infinity
Enjoy 50% less.

Love has made him a wanted man

From page D3



Sunday LIFESTYLE

Floor design will follow the Asian Fusion look

M.SA Tutorial and Review offers

College Entrance Tests and SAT Review

Academic Excellence Program

Kinder and Preparatory
Grade School
MSA Mental Math
English Enhancement
High School
College
Professional Levels

M.SA

The ground beneath your feet

Text by Alan Y. Vergara
Photos by Kelly Lerma

AS FAR AS FLOORS GO, VARIOUS SHADES OF brown—from light to dark—will continue to dominate the interior design scene this year. In line with Filipino homeowners' prevailing penchant for the Asian Fusion look, the demand for varnished and wood-veneer floors is also likely to get bigger.

"Asian Fusion is simply a mixture of Balinese, Indonesian, Thai, Filipino and various Asian elements," says architect and interior designer Mirielle Pajardo, CEO of Inex Design Inc. (0471217 and 4109503). "Filipinos are good at mixing up a lot of things, which often results in something really beautiful."

After having their fill of lan and Mediterranean-inspired interiors for several years, Filipinos can't seem to have enough of Asian Fusion and Contemporary Asian these days. Speaking of contemporary, the new big thing in interior design is Contemporary Scandinavian, but Pajardo doubts that such a minimalist look will completely catch on in the Philippines.

THE GROUND IS

WeRoam Now at Your Neighborhood PC Store

PLDT WeRoam , the wireless innovation that gives you fulltime mobile internet connectivity, has not only been winning awards, but is also moving into your neighborhood PC stores.

You can now sign up for PLDT WeRoam at the PC stores you know best. Just visit any participating HP or ThinkPad PC shop - Accent Micro PC Live, CompBook/E-Hub, Ebrowsetd, HP Home & Business Center, HP Store (DLSU-Taft), The Computer Authority, Villman, Silicon Valley, and Ng Khai Cebu.

And it just gets better. You can get the wireless GPRS/EDGE card equipped with 3 months unlimited WeRoam (GPRS/EDGE and WiFi Internet for as low as P12,600 or at 0% interest plus of P1,050 per month for 12 months in major credit cards. Also available in 0% plans are the latest HP and ThinkPad laptops that are equipped with PLDT WeRoam.

Hook up your laptop to the PLDT WeRoam experience and get yourself full-time Internet access anywhere you are thru PLDT's vast GPRS, EDGE and WiFi wireless network.

"This is the fulfillment of our promise to provide a wireless connectivity service to mainstay in the country as well as students and prospective users who have laptops but are not frequent users of wireless broadband service, and therefore do not need to subscribe to a postpaid service. We developed this package to suit this specific need," said Ernesto R. Alberto, SVP for the Corporate Business Group.

Now it's easier for you to get yourself total freedom.

Techies and businesses have been raving about PLDT WeRoam, and with good reason. More and more people are reading and seeing about it in gadget magazines and websites. Now is the time to experience PLDT WeRoam for yourself.

For more information, log on to www.pldtwiroam.com or email bizask@pldt.com.ph or call 816-7474.

Relive HISTORY through the pages of the INQUIRER

1985 20 INQUIRER 2005

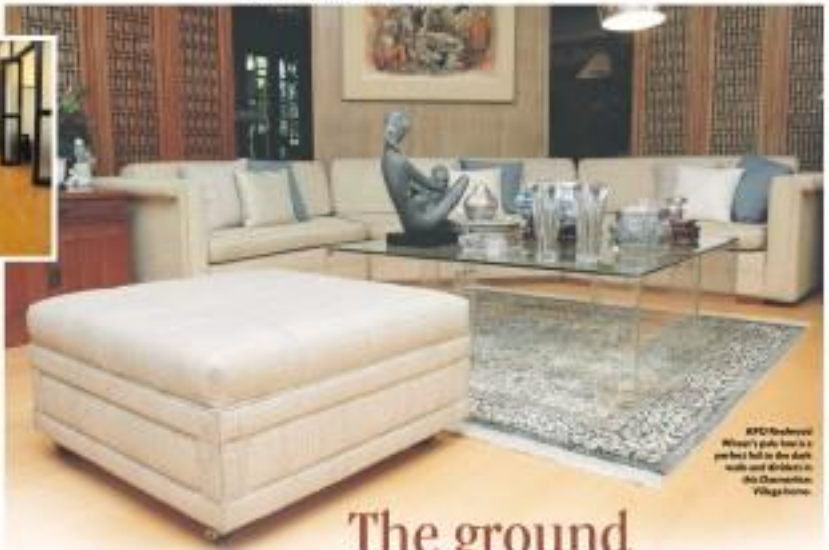
For the last two decades, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has stood witness to the major events in modern Philippine history. Now, Page One: Book Two, the anticipated sequel to the groundbreaking Page One, presents the most memorable front page images from 1996 to 2001 in a convenient, lasting package.

PAGE ONE BOOK TWO
FRONT PAGES 1986-2001

INQUIRER

Now available at all National Bookstores and Powerbooks branches nationwide.

THE LOOK and feel of wood for less



APO Boulevard Mirasol's pale hues is a perfect foil to the dark seats and dividers in this Chamonetan Village home.

Whether elaborate or tame, interiors are tied together by floor design

The ground beneath your feet

A HIGHLIGHT in her Don Antonio Heights apo for Apo Boulevard Spice is a dark, warm hue.

THE bedroom's occupants in an Alabang Hills home go for Apo Boulevard Cocoa.

From page E1

"With Filipinos," she says, "there will always be some kind of fusion or modification. We will always find ways to make a look uniquely Filipino by injecting it with our own take."

But whether or not one chooses minimalist over elaborate interiors, one of the keys that tie a certain look together is the floor, and one of the best sources of locally manufactured flooring materials is Apo Floors, which Fajardo finds most of the time at par with more pricier imported brands.

"I don't have any particular favorite when it comes to floors," she says. "Most of the time, the choice depends on the client's budget and where he or she intends to use a particular material."

For the kitchen, Fajardo, of course, favors ceramic and other waterproof flooring materials. Bedrooms can use a bit of "warmth" via wooden floors or their laminated equivalents. Proper selection of materials saves owners from costly renovation in the future.

Choosing the right floor won't be a problem, as Apo offers a wide assigned floor tiles in stylistic colors, makes and materials. At top of the line vinyl tiles, which can be installed in a matter of hours using a water-based adhesive called Smartbond, are versatile and scratch-resistant.

APO Rosewood Spice is designed for high-traffic areas such as this corridor.

Versatile

Apo's vinyl tiles are also low-maintenance, which make them popular among busy housewives and working women. Soap, water and a soft mop will do in lieu of floor wax and the scary boxer Cocomat brand or floor polisher. What's more, the company's so-called homegrown tiles come in various thicknesses and have consistent colors from top to bottom.

"Our good thing about vinyl tiles is its versatility," says Fajardo. "Through the years, I've learned that you can use the same tiles in different ways. You can create several variations using the same materials."

Unlike their ceramic counterparts, vinyl tiles can be easily cut and reshaped manually by an expert. Such versatility allows designers to mix and match vinyl tiles in various colors, shapes and patterns.

Apart from the brand's more popular and relatively homogenous vinyl tiles, the company's also known for its laminated floors. The line has the look of natural marble, granite and stone, but costs much less and is easier to install than the real thing.

If you go for the wood look, Apo also offers a special line of laminated "wallboard" panels. The handy variant comes in such warm shades as antique walnut, hazelnut oak, gala gum maple, rich cherry and a host of other "natural" colors. Laminated wood has reportedly become such a hit in a number of high-end condominiums in Makati and big houses in Ayala Alabang.

For more discriminating homeowners, Apo has come up with its so-called engineered wood under the brand name Rosewood. The material is made of seven sheets of wood laminated together to form one plane. Its makers attest to Rosewood's resilience and ability to withstand warping due to humidity.

"Rosewood falls under engineered planks," Fajardo explains. "Planks are fabricated using scrap wood that have been bound together. They put veneer over it to give it a good finish. There are quite a number of engineered planks in the market, but almost all are imported."

But whatever tiles you go for, be they local or imported, it pays to have a creative mind to design your floor.

"If they're properly applied, even inexpensive tiles can look expensive," says Fajardo. "You can have the most expensive tiles, but with wrong application and lack of imagination, they'd end up looking cheap."

E-mail the author at corrigan@inquirer.com.ph

DRAGONS will be invited over by these handmade clear vases.

MATCHING bathroom accessories may be the way to a dog's heart.

THE SYSTEMATIC Rascal will love every style of these Living Box Organizers.

Shopping list for Year of the Dog

FOR THE YEAR OF THE Fire Dog, Shopwise has planned a shopping horoscope to help customers decide what to buy.

But 1(1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984)—Adventurous Leo should invest on high-quality picnic gear like sturdy barbecue grills and coolers.

Or (1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985)—An extrovert Leo should go for the essentials of power dressing—executive shirts in mint and oriental hues for women.

Tiger (1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986)—Independent-minded Tigers should invest in cotton T-shirts or basic jackets they can customize.

Rabbit (1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987)—Affectionate Bubbles can go for jeans, decorative bowls and trays, chilled beers and funky flip flops.

Dragon (1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988)—Classy Dragons can get Oriental-inspired accent pieces, bamboo-like glass vases, and assorted colored stones.

Snake (1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989)—Cosmopolitan Snakes should go for jewelry-cases in Chinese silk, cosmetic kits in gold fabrics, as well as sleeveless and jacquard dresses and blouses.

Horse (1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990)—Horses, who live for the moment, may want to board chocolates on or get the latest home entertainment system.

Goat (1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991)—Charming Goats can check out housewares like stuffed toys for friends and loved ones.

Monkey (1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992)—Sociable Monkeys should stock up on fine wine, party-food and appetizing treats.

Rooster (1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, SHOPPING E2

IN LOVE with the outdoors, Rico might be enjoying cooking al fresco with these sturdy BBQ grills.

Shopping list for Year of the Dog

SHOPWISE shoppers have a chance to become instant millionaires by choosing the right key ring with open a treasure chest.

From page B1

1950—Year Rooters should get low organizers, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and travel irons.

Dog (1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994)—Easygoing Dogs may want to have tablecloth with rings and napkins, towel sets, matching bathroom accessories, and other coordinated picture frames.

Pig (1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995)—Pigs should stock up on scented sprays, sunscreens, bed sheets, and pillowcases.

All items are available in all Shopwise branches.

Meanwhile, Shopwise shoppers can have an adventure of a lifetime this 2006.

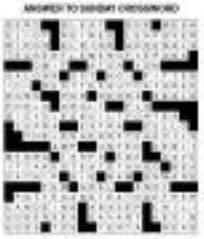
The hypermarket owners can expect to go on a Travesia Shop until April 2.

For a minimum purchase of P400, plus at least P200 worth of products from sponsors at any Shopwise branch, shoppers get the chance to open Shopwise's treasure chest and become instant millionaires by picking the right key from a jar.

The pot money grows every week across all stores.

Shopwise is located at the ground floor of the Harrison Plaza Mall, Manila; M.L. Quezon Avenue cor. Circumferential Road, Iloilo City; ground floor of the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City; corner of Quezon Tarlac and Mac Arthur Sts. in Makati City; and R. Rodriguez St. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Libis, and corner of General Aguinaldo and Mindanao Avenues in Annex La Cruzan, Cubao, Quezon City.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



A cooperation with

Progress Gold

GMA

Presents

Forever After

a fantaconcierto

February 10 & 11

Araneta Coliseum

Directed by: Manuel Sambrano

Music Direction by: Raul Mitra

Written by: Ricky Lee

Photography by: Raymond Ivan

Tickets available at:

All Ticketnet Outlets - 891-9999 • Ticketworld - 840-3333 • Ace Productions - 426-2949

Ticket Price: P2,500 • P1,500 • P1,000 • P750 • P500 • P250

Accelerated Progress. From 1 year onwards.

Help your child Accelerate with Gold

The Best Care And Nutrition Help Make An Accelerated Child

As a mother you've been doing your best to help your child succeed in all that he can do. To help accelerate your child's development, make sure he gets the best care and nutrition.

Accelerated With The Best Care

Understanding your child's mental and physical needs is the first step to giving him the best possible care. Your child's first 5 years is the most critical when his social, emotional, cognitive, physical and language development are stimulated during multisensory experiences.

Here are some things you can do to help stimulate his senses:

- Explore your child's bright and colorful world. Arrange and adjust to stimulate his vision.
- Let your child listen to different kinds of music.
- Allow him to feel his environment through his sense of touch.
- Encourage activities that make use of 2 or more senses like identifying animals and imitating the sounds they make.

These are some of the things you can do to help accelerate his child's brain development:

- Make your child participate in mind-stretching activities.
- Encourage him to explore spontaneously and fun making and engage in creative exercises and finger coordination.
- Let him play games like piggyback rides, riding on chairs, and climbing low trees.

Accelerated With Advanced Nutrition

When your child turns 1, give him the scientifically advanced nutrition of Progress Gold. It is the growing up milk with the breakthrough Colostrum and Body Formula — a scientifically advanced blend of essential nutrients that helps accelerate learning and mind development, strengthen immunity and promote faster growth.

Here's why Progress Gold is the only milk formula enhanced with the goodness of Vitamin A, that helps protect cells from oxygen damage. Vitamin A also helps maintain healthy skin and prevent colds and diseases from the damaging effects of free radicals.

Zinc
Zinc plays an important role in the formation of cells in the body. It also helps in the formation and maintenance of tissues, and helps promote faster growth.

Show your child how much you love him. Help him become the best he can be with his best care and the advanced nutrition of Progress Gold.

HURRY!
JANUARY 27 TO
FEBRUARY 26 ONLY!

SO-EN®

Season Sale

UP TO 70% off

ON SELECTED ITEMS

at all participating retail outlets:

DEPARTMENT STORE

All SHOEMART GMA & Luzon branches • Ever Botanico Greenhills • Ever Botanico Grand Central • Gaisano Metro Market • SO-EN Showroom

"SANCTUARY"

Annual Alabang garden show opens today

THE ARAS ALABANG VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB (AAVGC) will hold its annual garden exhibit starting today until Feb. 12 on the village's park on Nicanor Jalandoni, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

This year's theme is "Gardens of the World Part II." The theme and concept are a continuation of last year's when members of the club formed themselves into groups and did landscapes inspired by countries for their gardens.

Arsey Aure, AAVGC president, said gardens depicting this year drew inspiration from Hawaii, Bali, Spain, Sweden, Philippines, Thailand and Mexico.

Actress and former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz will officially open the exhibit with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Ayala Alabang Village Association President Jose Ayala and Aure, AAVGC president, leading the ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

A commercial area will showcase new breeds, imported and local species of ornamental and flowering plants from nurseries all over the country. Lectures and demonstrations will be conducted by experts in horticulture on weekends.

Overall chair this year is Rosario Ishii, AAVGC vice president. Rate and admission to the exhibit is free.

FILIPINAS NATIONWIDE ARE DISCOVERING
PEKAS-FREE SKIN IN 8 WEEKS with Pynocare

Pynocare 4D Actisome

Be Pekas, Be Obsessive, Be Lovers, Be Pale,
But Don't experience any fun or least if anyone, use Be Pekas Free

MEGA

Available at

mercury drug · watsons · manson drug · rose pharmacy · southstar drug

and other leading drugstores nationwide.

For more information on Pynocare 4D Actisome, call HOTLINE: 894-1111 • TEXT LINE: 0917-8274338

Scrapbook-makers fest today

SMART 3G WOWS ILOILO AND SHINES IN BORACAY:

BRINGING TECHNOLOGY AND TRADITION TOGETHER

Every last Sunday of January, Iloilo City celebrates with a colorful street spectacle to devotion to the Sto. Niño. Known as the Dinagyang festival, this citywide event gives tribute to the commemoration of the locals' ancestor crossing downstream and spirited dancing.

As always, the biggest floats crowd gathered at the heart of the city where they witnessed the Grand Parade. Representatives of schools and towns organized themselves by tribes as they traversed the city streets playing their lively music and thrilling spectators with well-rehearsed dance steps. Painted in charcoal black and dressed in costumes adorned with indigenous ornaments, these dancers resembled the local ati who were the first settlers of the region. From the packed city streets each tribe made its way to the Freedom Grandstand where they displayed their best performance to the applause of amazed audiences.

SMART joined this year's Dinagyang as it presented to the fiesta crowd SMART 3G. Billed as the next big thing, SMART 3G will further empower subscribers with more advanced features.

Street dancing as a main attraction for the Dinagyang Festival

The SMART 3G booth at the Delgado Food Fair

Experience SMART 3G at the following SMART Wireless Centers: SMART Tower Ayala Avenue, Alabang Town Center, ROBA Shops on Wak Powerplant Rockwell and Ever Cubao.

SMART 3G is happening right now and it's time to see for yourself what 3G is all about.

SMART 3G

Dance fiesta were strategically set up in areas where guests performed their traditional dances to attract more calls. The 3G feature connected different fiesta spots like the Freedom Grandstand and the Delgado Food Fair, allowing people to see via a camera-in what was happening in other places. Local VIPs were also able to try the service. Mayor Jerry Treñas, together with Governor Joe Garin, Vice Governor Oscar Garin, representatives from the provincial capitalities of SMART 3G, prominent local businessmen like Manny Dumagpeta and Edward Dy gave the service a try as wait and seats increased by its efficiency and features. Likewise, Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation Inc. President Mr. Lee Chuan was able to sample SMART 3G at the Freedom Grandstand.

As morning descended, the fiesta slowly came to a close with the awarding of the winning tribe for the Kasadyahan and Ati-Ati competition. The crowd that stayed on witnessed the pride and gratitude of the men and women who made this year's Dinagyang a success. SMART 3G has been a part of another exciting festival in honor of Señor Sto. Niño, and it continues its tour of the country, spreading the news that the next big thing in the world of telecommunications is coming.

First Again in the World's Best Beach!

Guadalupe-Manaoag churches forge sisterhood agreement

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

HER NAMES HAS A SPECIAL DEVOTION TO Our Lady of Manaoag to whom city Lolo Marcelo Barcenas prayed when I was sick in 1981-1985. We Ilocanos call her "Apo Baket," meaning old woman. She is said to appear to people in the town of Manaoag.

I was happy to hear from Irene Luzuriaga, mother-in-law of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, that the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Metro Legaspi a sisterhood agreement with the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag in 2005. Philippine ambassador to Mexico Jesus Orosa Jr. said the agreement was a brainchild of Speaker Jose de Venecia who proposed the idea in Msgr Diego Monroy Bonet, vicar general and rector of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Much later, Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, parish priest of Quiapo Church, invited Msgr. Monroy to visit the Philippines. The Philippine Embassy in Mexico arranged visits to Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Dagupan, Ilgan and La Union.

Msgr. Monroy donated to Quiapo Church a life-size icon of the Virgin of Guadalupe. It was enthroned on the right side of the main altar.

When Ms Luzuriaga visited Mexico last year, she witnessed the signing of the agreement between Ambassador Orosa and Msgr. Monroy. She was accompanied by Sonya Luzuriaga, Bonnie and Terry Pinos.

The agreement aimed:

To encourage people to visit the shrines to each other's country to promote not only devotion to the Virgin Mary but also to foster mutual understanding and friendship between Filipinos and Mexicans.

To disseminate information on the devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Manaoag in each other's country.

To exchange information, documents and materials on Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Manaoag.

To undertake exchange of visits among Church officials of the shrines as well as lay devotees of the Virgin Mother.

To promote the holding of seminars and conferences on the Marian devotion as well as joint studies and researches.

Our Lady in Bohol

The image of Our Lady of Manaoag was rededicated last Sunday at the St. Isidore the Farmer Church in Balingoan, Bohol.

The Rotary Center of Our Lady of Manaoag in Puerto Cortes, Carmen, Cebu, continues to receive pilgrims from all over the Philippines. It is run by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Sylvestre Abbey headed by Fr. Thomas.

Sto. Niño feast

As early as 7 a.m. of Jan. 27, devotees of the Sto. Niño de Providencia started to arrive at Pijuan St. in BF Homes Village, Las Piñas, for the feast day of the Sto. Niño. Judging from the number of sandwiches made, at least 30,000 people came to thank the Child Jesus for favors granted and to ask for healing of their illnesses.

Fr. Flo Lumibao, OSB, Fr. Basil Aparenti, Fr. Alny Macaraan of the Benedictine Abbey and Fr. Joseph Soc, chaplain of the Manila Medical Center, anointed people with the holy oil from the body of the image.

Msgr. Philip Dool of the Holy Mother of the Church Parish concelebrated the Mass. Devotees included Sta. Cynthia Villar, who comes to the Mass every year. Concelebrants were Fr. Remy Mendoza, Fr. Daniel Healy, Fr. Joel Adre, and Fr. Jose Fajardo.

The image of Our Lady of Medjugorje of All Grace was brought by the Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Face and joined the procession afterward. People living along the route of the procession brought out their Sto. Niño images and lighted candles.

BF Resort Village had a fiesta atmosphere on the eve of the Sto. Niño passed perved. ed by the dancing barakol group from Sto. Niño Parish in La Huerta, Paranaque.

Volunteers preparing for the annual fiesta organized themselves into the Microdevotees Sto. Niño de Providencia Community headed by Bro. Domingo Paz.

Those who want to visit the Sto. Niño Chapel can go to 63 Pijuan St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas.

Pilgrimage

Adam's Express Travel is organizing a 12-day pilgrimage tour of the Holy Land March 5. The tour will include Jordan, the land of the prophets, and Egypt, the land of the pharaohs.

Call Adam's Express Travel at 3121638/39 or text 09181608630.

St. Nicholas devotion

On Feb. 6, first Monday of the month, devotees of St. Nicholas of Tiet will go to San Marcelino Church to pray to the saint and ask for favors like healing and money.

Stella Victoria Dacuyagan, a devotee for 31 years, has gathered novena prayers to the saint for distribution. The efficacy of St. Nicholas' intercession has been proven.

Those who want to have the novena prayer can write to me c/o PO. Box 2050 Manila and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. The first Monday has a special ecumenical prayer to St. Nicholas of Tiet.

Novena and healing

The Blessed Margaret Castelo Movement will hold a novena and healing Mass 5:30 p.m., Feb. 9, Thursday at the Sto. Domingo Church. Fr. Gresgar Marenas, OP is celebrant.

Blessed Margaret, a hunchback and lame lady woman, was rejected by her parents as a child. She was put in a cell in the forest and left to lead his herself.

Blessed Margaret is the patron of Pro-Life Philippines.

PHILIPPINE Ambassador Jesus Orosa Jr. with Msgr. Diego Monroy (center); Nonoy Pinos, Terry Pinos, Irene Luzuriaga, Sonny Luzuriaga and Jeffrey de Mesa, Philippine Embassy protocol officer

Two projects benefit elderly

THE SM FOUNDATION LAUNCHES RECENTLY two projects for the elderly as part of its efforts to reach out to the less fortunate.

In Tarlac Martires City, Cavite, a center for less-fortunate seniors was opened. It will be a place for self and social enhancement through socialization, recreation, information and livelihood activities.

Guests included Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Tarlac Rep. Mayor Jun de Jesus, Provincial Federation of Senior Citizens in Cavite president Guillermo Valmas, District Board member Lanning Silas, Provincial Social Welfare and Development OIC Mercedita Reyes, and SM Foundation executive director Cesar Angeles and Linda Angeles.

Earlier, SM Foundation, together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Orbit 701, spearheaded the selection of Elderly Filipino Week at SM City San Lazaro.

The Elderly Filipino Week aimed to promote the rights and well-being of the growing number of older persons in the country. Seven deserving and dedicated senior citizens in a series of variety shows.

Various awards were given and among the recipients were Lolo Serafin, 91, oldest senior citizen during the event, and Lola Angie Arias, first Ilonggo in her Filipiniana costume.